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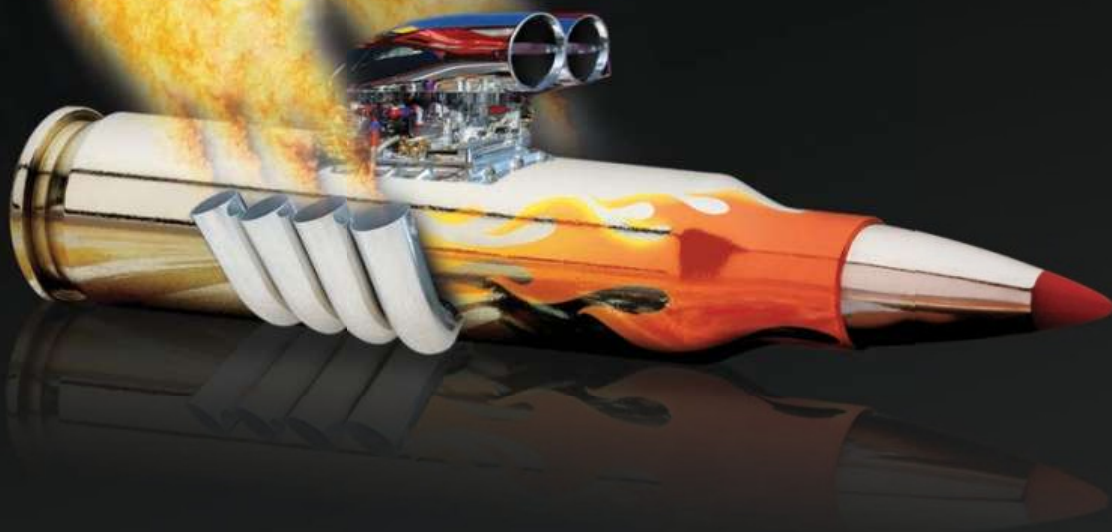
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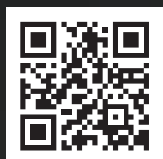
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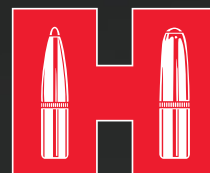
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NOVEMBER 2015
VOLUME 163, No. 11

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THE COVER: The same company that led the change from over-unders to semi-automatics has brought innovation and its aesthetic touches to, of all things, the over-under. Benelli's new 828U 12 gauge is more than just cosmetically different, it is the most innovative shotgun we have tested in some time. For more on the 828U, turn to Senior Executive Editor Brian C. Sheetz's story, "Breaking With Tradition," starting on p. 62. Photo by Forrest MacCormack. Design by David J. Labrozzi.



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American Rifleman (ISSN 0003-083X) is published monthly by the National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, (703) 267-1000, for the benefit of its members. Membership dues (U.S. and possessions) \$35 a year, \$85 for 3 years, \$125 for 5 years. \$3.75 per year is designated for a magazine subscription. For foreign postage add \$5 a year in Canada and \$10 elsewhere. For membership inquiries only, call (877) 672-2000. Copyright 2015, the National Rifle Association of America. All rights reserved except where expressly waived. Periodicals Postage paid at Fairfax, VA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *American Rifleman*, c/o National Rifle Association, P.O. Box 420648, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0648.

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AMERICA REMEMBERS PRESENTS

A SALUTE TO THE OLD WEST RIFLE

Featuring Western Artwork by Frank McCarthy

The Old West has fascinated Americans for many years. From the days when the west was wild to the cavalry charges, from the outlaws on the frontier to the steam-locomotives tearing toward the Pacific, the Old West continues to fascinate us today. Many of these scenes from the Old West have been captured by Frank McCarthy, "The Dean of Western Action Painters". He tracked the changing frontier on canvas after canvas—from the golden era of the Plains Indian, when the buffalo roamed the grasslands of North America in massive herds, through America's exciting and tumultuous period of westward expansion.

Plains Indian tribes like the Cheyenne, Sioux, Blackfeet, Arapaho, Crow, and Comanche represent the days of the frontier. These tribes were very different, but they had two important elements in common: a deeply spiritual view of the world, and a profound love of the land they roamed, which was right alongside the buffalo.

SALUTING THE OLD WEST

To honor all those who lived in this historic period, America Remembers proudly presents the **Salute to the Old West Rifle**—a handsome firearm featuring artwork by Frank McCarthy. This rifle is issued on a working Winchester Repeating Arms Model '73 rifle in caliber .45 LC. As you know, Winchester discontinued production of the Model '73 in the early 1900s, but they have recently reissued this Old West classic. We've been able to reserve a limited number of these highly desired Model '73 rifles for this year, and expect to receive an additional quantity next year.

Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers decorate each rifle in lustrous 24-karat gold and gleaming nickel with blackened patinaed highlights to accent the details of the artwork based on six classic Frank McCarthy paintings. This exclusive firearm honors the Plains Indians and the buffalo as legends of the Old West.

For the Plains Indians, life revolved around the buffalo. It is difficult to believe now that once millions of buffalo roamed this country. Plains Indian tribes moved their villages to follow their migrations, as their lives were dependent on the buffalo. This exclusive firearm honors the time when the Plains Indians and the buffalo roamed free on the Western Frontier.

THE DEAN OF WESTERN ACTION PAINTERS

Frank McCarthy's reputation is gold when it comes to Western enthusiasts. His paintings capture the drama of cowboys, mountain men, cavalry riders, the Plains Indians and buffalo—all struggling against nature, themselves, and each other. His vision was one of an untamed land, on the brink of change.

A LIMITED EDITION

Only 500 of the Salute to the Old West Rifles will ever be produced. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. We will arrange delivery of your working rifle through a licensed firearms dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are less than satisfied with your rifle, you may return it in original unfired condition within 30 days for a complete and courteous refund.

Reserve your rifle today, and you'll always have a special reminder of this legendary era of the American frontier when the west was wild, when the buffalo roamed free in massive herds, and when the Plains Indians thrived.

Featured on the right side of the receiver is The Coming of the Iron Horse. A locomotive moves full on ahead as a great herd of buffalo race to get off the tracks. When The Land Was Theirs is to the left of this image, which features Crow warriors atop a hill, surveying the changing landscape. To the right is Thunder Across the Plains, which features ominous western skies and charging warriors on horseback.

Featured on the left side of the receiver is In Pursuit of the White Buffalo. Here, a group of Sioux hunters witness a Great Plains rarity: the white buffalo. The allure of the white buffalo continues to the left of the center image with Big Medicine. Two Sioux Indians, bows in hand, trail it in wonder. Finally, Show of Defiance features an Arapaho Warrior, spear and shield in hand on horseback. Elegant scrollwork outlines all the artwork on both sides of the receiver.

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American Gunmaking

While many "Gun Valley" firearm manufacturers and others have been forced to head for friendlier territories, others have remained or expanded operations. Here's a look at some manufacturers that chose the latter option. Go to americanrifleman.org/american for "American Gunmaking: Alive and Well in the 13 Original Colonies."

10 Great Gun Ads

Well-written, well-designed advertising can contribute much to reader enjoyment, especially when readers are passionate about the subject, as in the case of this magazine. Go to americanrifleman.org/ads for a collection of some of our favorites from the pages of *American Rifleman*, going back to the 1980s.

Building The World's Smallest 10 mm Pistol

Bond Arms has added a 4.25" 10 mm Auto barrel to its line of accessories, effectively "Building the World's Smallest 10 mm Pistol." Check out Field Editor B. Gil Horman's report at americanrifleman.org/smallest10.

GREAT GUN ADS



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KEEFE REPORT

About a year ago, I asked a friend, a hardcore waterfowler, what he thought a Benelli over-under should look like. He replied, "I don't know, but I want one." He isn't alone.

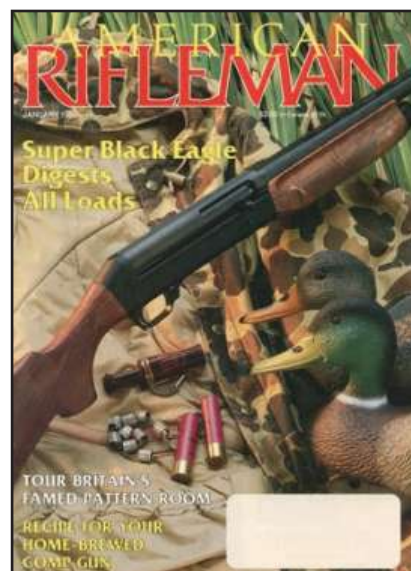
Irony is, at times, delicious. On this month's cover is something that I would have lost a considerable amount of money on, were I a betting man. (Who has money for gambling when there are so many guns to buy?) Benelli, which was not a gunmaker until about 50 years ago, in a few short decades has come to dominate a very specific portion of the semi-automatic shotgun market.

Changes in federal migratory waterfowl law gave Benelli, which had a very good "inertia-operated" gun, the opportunity to really stand out from the crowd. Moving from lead to steel shot, waterfowlers looked for a way to bring down ducks with a less-dense element. At first, 10 gauge was the answer. The more practical solution was to lengthen the 12-ga. shell and put more steel shot in it. In 1988, Federal Cartridge Co. came up with the 3½", 12-ga. shotshell. And while Mossberg was the leader when it came to the pump-action shotgun, Benelli stepped in and took over the 3½" semi-automatic category with its Super Black Eagle in 1992.

Essentially, with the Super Black Eagle and SBEII, Benelli convinced shotgunners that it was OK to spend more on a semi-automatic shotgun than on an over-under. As Benelli semi-automatic prices crept upwards of \$1,200—with some approaching \$2,000—the over-under shotgun in that price range virtually evaporated. Or just didn't sell.

The Beretta Model 686 and Browning Citori had crept over that price mark, and it is my opinion that Benelli's semi-automatics virtually killed the market for over-unders, except those priced well above or below them. Now Benelli is standing on the thoracic cavity of the over-under with a set of chest paddles yelling, "Clear!"

Under the design leadership of Marco Vignaroli in Italy, the company



is poised to shake up the over-under world. The 828U, although having a pedestrian name, has more innovation in a single shotgun than I have seen in some time.

There's no doubt that the 828U challenges convention, but its lines are not offensive to traditionalists. The real difference lies in what's inside—or not. There are no rods connecting the ejection mechanism with the rest of the action. Opening the action via the top lever plays no role in the ejection of spent hulls. The barrels lock into a steel locking plate—much like a Blaser K95 single-shot rifle—allowing the receiver itself to be a non-stressed part made of aluminum alloy.

Much like SBEs, over-unders kick, and the 828U has the excellent Progressive ComforTech system in the butt, which really does work. It also allows the use of Benelli's shim system to adjust drop and cast.

Senior Executive Editor Brian Sheetz has written an outstanding description of the gun beginning on p. 52. He and I were at the range with the 828U recently, and, as he watched the gun in motion, reflecting natural light on the clays field, he turned to me and said, "You know, that gun has nice lines." I've worked with Brian for 17 years, and have found him to be right about many things—he certainly is regarding the 828U.

Sincerely,

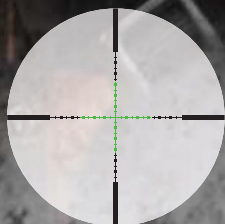
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Two adults, who were enjoying the rare appearance of a blue moon along the banks of the Mississippi River, won't be charged in the death of a teen who attempted to rob them near a World War I monument in St. Paul, Minn. The incident occurred after a man and a woman—who met near the river bluffs, where they both had gone to see the moon—had struck up a conversation. As they were talking, a teen approached and asked to use a cell phone. Moments later, another teen—this one wearing a mask and gloves—appeared, pulled a gun and demanded their valuables. The male victim, who has a right-to-carry permit, instead drew his gun and shot the suspect. The other teen ran away. The female victim called 911 while the armed citizen rendered first aid, but the wounded suspect died at the scene. Investigators have since arrested and charged several teens, one of whom was allegedly involved in the night attack and others who were allegedly accomplices in crimes the dead teen committed earlier in the day. (St. Paul Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., 8/4/15)

A 79-year-old Tennessee homeowner was determined to have acted in self-defense when he shot two would-be burglars who broke into his home and came into his bedroom late one night. The Petros, Tenn., resident grabbed his revolver and shot one of the intruders in the chest and the other one in the stomach. Morgan County Sheriff Glen Freytag said both suspects were taken to nearby medical facilities for treatment. One suspect has been charged in the home invasion, and charges are pending against the other, who is a juvenile. Freytag said no charges will be brought against the homeowner. (Morgan County News, Wartburg, Tenn., 7/28/15)

No charges will be filed against a Hamshire, Texas, man who shot and killed a 16-year-old burglary suspect. When a barking dog awakened the homeowner during the night, the man grabbed his gun and investigated. He stumbled upon a masked intruder in his kitchen and fired several shots, hitting the bad guy at least once. The suspect fled and jumped a fence, but neighbors who had heard the shots held the teen at gunpoint until the authorities arrived. After the Hamshire Volunteer Fire Department emergency medical team arrived, they pronounced the juvenile dead. A grand jury cleared the homeowner. (The Courier of Montgomery County, Conroe, Texas, 8/18/15)

When a California homeless man witnessed a young woman being beaten by a man near a Fresno, Calif., liquor store late one night, he didn't hesitate to help. Paul DeLeon came across the fighting couple and used pepper spray on the male, who was later identified as the woman's ex-boyfriend. The suspect responded by tracking down DeLeon and firing at him several times, hitting him once in the arm. DeLeon, who had a registered handgun, returned fire, scaring off the suspect. The ex-boyfriend's car was later found abandoned at a nearby intersection, though the man remains on the lam. The Fresno County Sheriff's Office called DeLeon a good Samaritan and said no charges will be brought against him. (abcnews.com, 8/7/15)

Florida's "stand your ground" law likely protected a Palm Beach resident who shot two intruders who had broken into his home. The homeowner returned home one night and found the criminals inside his home. In an exchange of gunfire, the resident killed one intruder and injured the

second. The homeowner was not hurt. In 2005, Florida became the first state to pass a "stand your ground" law, which allows a person to defend and protect his own life against a threat or a perceived threat. No charges have been brought against the resident. (Palm Beach Post, Palm Beach, Fla., 8/14/15)

A church employee with a right-to-carry permit used his gun to scare off an attacker near the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Boulder, Colo. A female parishioner was in the parking lot when her estranged husband confronted her with a knife and threatened to slit her throat. A church employee, who was walking to his car at the time, witnessed the assault. He pulled out his handgun and told the man to leave the woman alone. The estranged husband fled but was later captured by police and faces charges of attempted first-degree murder, first-degree assault and felony menacing. The woman was taken to a hospital and treated for an abdominal stab wound. No charges will be brought against the armed citizen. (The Denver Post, Denver, Colo., 8/2/15) ★

If you have a firsthand "Armed Citizen" experience, call NRA-ILA PR/Communications at (703) 267-1193.

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts. Send clippings via e-mail to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. **View this column online at nrapublications.org.**



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standing guard

By Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President

Gun Control is a Tool to Make Innocents Pay the Price for the Guilty



In the midst of demands for gun bans after the live-broadcast murders of a young Virginia television reporter and her cameraman by a deranged, fired coworker, a good friend of mine asked the most fundamental question:

"Wayne, what's this got to do with us?"

When you think about it, as a peaceable, law-abiding gun owner, it is a profound question that applies to

As NRA members, we are 5 million Americans among the over 100 million citizens who own firearms. We are not criminals. Our pursuit of life, liberty and happiness and our exercise of the Second Amendment has nothing whatsoever to do with crime. Yet the gun-banners often seem to equate our pursuit and the armed protection of our homes, families and communities with the actions of violent criminals.

Many gun owners have come to believe that so-called "gun control" is nothing more than an attempt to make the innocent pay the price for the guilty.

Almost immediately after the Aug. 26, 2015, televised murders, President Barack Obama and presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley were trumpeting demands for more gun control—specifically "universal" background checks.

Even though the murderer had no previous criminal or mental health record and, therefore, had already cleared the background check.

In addition to being seen in a live on-the-scene broadcast, the killer made a video of his crime and posted it on Facebook.

He sent a manifesto to ABC News saying, as an African American, he was trying to start a "race war."

This was a monster in waiting until that fateful morning. No background check system can measure evil intent, so he passed a legally mandated background check when purchasing a firearm from a Virginia dealer.

Nonetheless, making any transfer of any firearm between law-abiding citizens subject to a background check was the demand of media and gun-ban poli-

ticians. Proponents of such measures prove seemingly unable to differentiate between good and evil. They apparently cannot face the fact that there are bad people in this world.

You cannot "prevent" evil. You can't keep anything "out of the wrong hands" any more than you can keep evil thoughts out of anyone's mind.

But once again, in the wake of tragedy, you and I were called to blame. For the criminal acts of sociopaths, we are supposed to accept "responsibility."

"Responsibility." That word has crept into the gun-ban lexicon to join the focus-group-tested, feel-good terms like "common sense" and "reasonable." When the gun-ban crowd and their media enablers use that word, it doesn't mean what it means to most of us now. When criminals commit violence, they are responsible individually under the law. Right? Not in the gun-ban playbook.

When gun-banners, like billionaire Michael Bloomberg, use the word, they are talking about collective "responsibility"—blame and guilt for all who peaceably exercise freedom, but apparently none for individual criminals for their acts of violence.

Look at the Sarah Garrecht Gassen article that the *Arizona Daily Star* published a day after the live-TV murders:

Gassen described law-abiding men and women who fight to preserve American liberty as "people who ardently believe that having the ability to kill humans quickly and efficiently is their God-given right. The orthodoxy goes beyond merely supporting the Second Amendment."

She asks, "What responsibility do we share for accepting gun deaths as inevitable?"

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many media-intensified tragedies, as well as to the spike in criminal violence in many cities.

What has this got to do with us? The answer to that question is emphatic: "Not a single thing!"



Like us on Facebook at the National Rifle Association. View this column online at nrapublications.org.

Responsibility? We? In her world, anyone who owns a firearm, should share the guilt. We share nothing in common with violent criminals. Maybe this woman wants to wallow in shared guilt. But don't lay it on us!

Blaming us and the rights of law-abiding Americans is going mainstream. This is the new gun-ban meme.

The *New York Times*, in an editorial piece headlined "Killings of Journalists Bring Gun Violence to Dark New Level," says, "It is an increasingly horrific fact of life and death in the United States that easily available guns offer troubled Americans the power to act out their grievances in public. ...

"Many politicians will focus on the gunman's troubled personality and try to cast this shooting as a summons for better mental health care, certainly not gun control.

"Yet that ignores a grim reality: the estimated 300 million guns in America owned by a third of the population, far more per capita than any other modern nation. Guns are ubiquitous and easy to acquire, as statehouse politicians ... genuflect to the gun lobby to weaken, not tighten, gun safety."

So there you have it, one-third of the U.S. population, vastly good people who enjoy the exercise of liberty guaranteed by a God-given constitutional right should be responsible for one "troubled personality."

Collective responsibility. Collective guilt. Collective blame. Collective loss of freedom. That is where this Newspeak is headed.

In all of this, there is one thing that NRA members and law-abiding gun owners must proudly take responsibility for—the preservation of the rights that secure our liberty. And to do that, we must once again organize and inform others of the danger to our freedom and way of life. It is not too early to be building the power at the ballot box for November 2016—to hold and build the Second Amendment majorities in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and to elect a president who will repair the damage to our free nation.

Walter LaPine

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president's column

By Allan D. Cors, President



El Salvador's Strict Gun Control Does Nothing to Thwart Crime

"El Salvador's most violent month: homicide rate hits record high in May."

That headline on *theguardian.com*, caught my attention, because El Salvador is about to become the most violent and dangerous country on Earth. Gun control?

The story proclaimed, "El Salvador broke a grisly record in May with 635 homicides, believed to be the most killings for a single month since the Central American country's civil war ended in 1992."

There was something curiously missing, and I wanted to see if other coverage would fill the gap.

The virulently anti-gun *Huffington Post* produced a similar piece, updated in July, calling the record homicides "a dark milestone ... that could mark a trend of greater violence to come," and it declared, "At this rate, El Salvador is on a pace to surpass Honduras as the deadliest peace-time country on earth."

The more coverage of runaway violence in El Salvador I read, the more the missing half of the story seemed painfully obvious.

If this were news about a "grisly record" of killings in Chicago, Washington, D.C., or Los Angeles, President Barack Obama, Michael Bloomberg, Hillary Clinton and the usual host of gun-ban mercenaries would be quoted blaming the freedom of law-abiding Americans as the cause for criminal abuse of firearms.

But in revealing the details of the carnage in El Salvador, none of the reports demanded new gun control?

There was absolutely nothing in any of that coverage about the need for "common-sense gun-safety measures to make El Salvadorians safer."

There was not a word about "keeping guns out of the hands of the El Salvadorian gangs" who purportedly are a major source of deadly violence.

No one was demanding "universal" background checks to stem the horrific crime wave gripping that nation.

Why not? The answer is simple: The media ignored the gun control part of their endless traditional narrative on armed violence because El Salvador already has implemented every scheme ever demanded by the U.S. media and gun-ban politicians.

And none of it has anything to do with the armed violent criminals who are terrorizing El Salvador.

The most concise roundup of gun control laws and edicts in El Salvador is published on *GunPolicy.org* at the Sydney School of Public Health in Australia. That organization is part of a worldwide network pushing gun ownership as a public health issue under which our private ownership of firearms is considered a disease in need of eradication. Their ultimate cure for "firearm violence" is absolute gun prohibition for innocent civilian gun owners everywhere.

I'll summarize their descriptions of El Salvadorian "gun control," which encompasses everything that the gun-ban crowd in the U.S. has in store for law-abiding Americans.

First of all, in El Salvador, there is no right to own firearms. All private firearms are "regulated by the Ministry of National Defence and the National Civil Police" and "only licensed gun owners may law-

fully acquire, possess or transfer a firearm or ammunition."

To qualify for a license, an individual is subjected to a background check "which considers criminal, mental and health records." In addition, a prospective licensed gun owner must demonstrate an "understanding of firearm safety" and must "re-qualify for their firearm license every three years." Failing to renew the license would result in confiscation.

Further, in El Salvador, "the law requires that a record of the acquisition, possession and transfer of each privately held firearm be retained in an official register," "the private sale and transfer of firearms is prohibited" and "the number and type of firearms which can be sold by a licensed gun dealer to a single gun owner is limited to one firearm every two years."

All of this is laid out by the world-stage gun-banners with pride, but there is nothing but shame in it. El Salvador is awash not in guns, but in armed predators who carry out their terror outside any possible law or "control."

There is an inescapable conclusion: El Salvador and other violent nations provide a living laboratory for every form of gun control ever conceived. And the result is always failure. Above all, it exposes the end game for the U.S. anti-Second Amendment crowd.

But the willfully ignorant U.S. media refuses to report the truth about places like El Salvador—with its tsunami of violent crime and its gun control—in hopes that the American people will be none the wiser. And that is a journalistic crime.

It is up to us to pass along the truth.

Allan Cors

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political report

By Chris W. Cox, NRA-ILA Executive Director



Election 2016—The Stakes Couldn't be Higher

If there was a message I could get to every NRA member and lawful gun owner in America, it would be this: The 2016 election is under way and the stakes couldn't be higher, so we have to get involved and go to work NOW!

For most Americans, odd-numbered years are not election years. We get a rest from the barrage of political ads, the omnipresent campaign signs and the never-ending coverage of local and national races by the news media. But this year, we can't wait to get moving on 2016.

Your membership dues are not enough.

If you want to defend your right to own and carry a firearm ...

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Before we get to next year's pivotal races, there are five states with elections this year. On Nov. 3, voters in Virginia and New Jersey are electing state legislators; Kentuckians are electing statewide officers, including a new governor; Mississippi and Louisiana will be electing statewide officers and state legislators.

In Mississippi, Gov. Phil Bryant, a strong NRA ally, is up for re-election. In Louisiana and Kentucky, the race is on to replace term-limited governors, and in

both cases we have pro-gun candidates ready to step in. Endorsements and NRA-Political Victory Fund grades for these races are included in this magazine for members in these states. (Members in Louisiana received their endorsement lists separately in the mail.) I strongly encourage every gun owner in these states to take action to ensure that our allies win these key elections.

In addition, there will be a very important vote this year in Texas, where voters will decide whether the Lone Star State adds the right to hunt and fish to its state constitution. This is a vital action to protect our treasured hunting heritage from attacks by animal rights activists and environmental extremists.

As important as these elections are, we must also look ahead. We all know what's at stake.

We've seen how much damage an anti-gun president can do. Even with our victories beating back anti-gun legislation in Congress, President Barack Obama has used his executive authority to strip Americans of their Second Amendment-protected rights. In previous issues, I've described abuses from Obama's bureaucrats at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Social Security Administration and other agencies.

Enough is enough. In 2016, we have to do everything in our power to elect a president who respects our fundamental freedoms. The good news is that there are many solid pro-gun candidates in the race. Gun owners should start to get informed now on the position each candidate holds on our right to keep and bear arms.

But as important as the race for the White House is, it's also critical that we keep control of the U.S. Senate in pro-gun hands.

Right now, there's a pro-gun majority in the Senate, and every member of the

majority leadership is a solid, NRA-endorsed, pro-gun ally. But—and this is critically important—the electoral map is not in our favor. Our opponents have far fewer seats to protect than do we.

To bring this home, consider that they need only five additional seats to make Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) the majority leader of the U.S. Senate! That's right, one of the biggest enemies of our freedom, one of the most entrenched anti-gun voices of the past several decades, could take control.

We simply cannot allow that to happen. That's why, when I say that 2016 starts now, it's because we cannot afford to wait until next fall to get involved. We can't even wait until the primaries start. There is just too much at stake.

We must work together—starting now—to protect our freedoms, not just for ourselves, but for future generations. Your NRA will do its part and we trust that gun owners throughout America will answer the call to win back the White House, increase the pro-gun majorities in the U.S. Congress and elect pro-gun officials in the states. And I'm confident that, through your efforts, we will succeed.

Chris W. Cox

For more information on elections in your state, go to nrapvf.org.

Grades and information are available for the 2015 elections.

To get involved, go to nraila.org/take-action or to nrapvf.org/volunteer.

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Armed Self-Defense “Rare?”

Gun control supporters and their lapdogs in the media work ceaselessly to create and maintain false narratives about guns and gun ownership in the United States. Most recently, anti-gun advocates have been working overtime to convince the public that firearms are only “rarely” used for self-defense. We know this is false, and we fight them at every turn.

With twisted statistics and junk science, anti-gun zealots continue to push the falsehood of “rare” defensive gun use because they know that for the vast majority of Americans, the right to self-defense is not negotiable. It is a firmly held, core belief that cuts across all demographic groups in all areas of the country. For

those arrayed against us, this reality is a major barrier to the ultimate destruction of our Second Amendment-protected freedoms, so they continue to push the falsehood of “rare” defensive gun use to undermine opinion and advance their agenda.

Far from “rare,” self-defensive gun uses occur each and every day in the United States, with armed citizens coming from every age group, religion, race and ethnicity. Self-defense includes men and women, the rich and the poor, and it takes place in every corner of our great nation. In short, armed citizens are as diverse as the country itself, but all share the uniquely American right to self-defense regardless of background or circumstance.

Here are a few of their stories.

Perhaps the most high-profile recent instance of armed self-defense involved former CNN employees Lynne Russell and Chuck de Caro. The married couple were staying at a motel in Albuquerque, N.M., in late June. According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, as Russell went to retrieve an item from the couple’s vehicle, she was approached by an armed criminal who forced Russell into her motel room. The couple tried to reason with the man. While doing so, Russell was able to assist de Caro in retrieving one of the two pistols the couple, who both have right-to-carry permits, kept in the room. Once armed, de Caro fired at their attacker, fatally wounding the criminal. De Caro was struck by the thief’s return fire, but he survived.

After the ordeal, Russell made clear

just how much she values the right to self-defense, telling Fox News, “The discussion over the debate to own a gun is just ridiculous. As Americans, we have the right to bear arms, and as humans, the right to protect ourselves.”

In April, according to a report in the *Chicago Tribune*, a driver for the ride-sharing cell-phone app Uber was travelling near Chicago’s Logan Square when a man opened fire on a crowd of pedestrians.

The driver, a right-to-carry permit holder who wisely took advantage of Illinois’ relatively new carry law, retrieved a firearm and shot the active gunman several times, halting the attack before any innocent people were injured.

Despite this driver’s heroic actions in saving countless lives,

Uber subsequently, and inexplicably, enacted a policy barring its drivers and passengers from carrying firearms while utilizing the service.

In July, the owner of a clothing store in Milwaukee was forced to defend his shop when a group of five criminals attempted a daring robbery. The thieves tried to get inside the store by using a van to smash through the store’s security doors. While the criminals were attempting to get in through the mangled doors, owner Rami Murrar retrieved a semi-automatic rifle—which gun control advocates (including Vice President Joe “Buy a Shotgun” Biden) have labeled “assault weapons” and attempt to portray as ineffective for self-defense—and proceeded to defend himself with it. The criminals fled empty-handed.

Hardly.

Photo by Peter Fountain

ILA STORY

That same month, a customer at Academy Sports and Outdoors in Topeka, Kan., helped halt an armed robbery. Joey Tapley, 24, was at the store's gun counter buying ammunition when three robbers entered the store and attempted to steal firearms. Tapley responded to the threat by drawing a gun and confronting the thieves. His actions forced one of the robbers to drop the guns he was trying to carry out of the store. Tapley later told Topeka's WIBW that he was carrying his gun that day thanks to Kansas' recently enacted law that allows residents to exercise their right to carry without a permit.

In August, 14-year-old Andrew

Mason was at home in North Las Vegas when a pair of home invaders entered the property. Andrew took quick action, corralling his siblings into an upstairs closet and retrieving a rifle and cell-phone. As Andrew explained to a local media outlet, when one of the home invaders came upon him, "I had my gun loaded and ready to shoot, but when he saw me he just took off running." Andrew's father Keiwa Mason told reporters, "I believe in the right to bear arms, and it's not like [Andrew] was foreign to it. We go to the shooting range quite often."

Also in August, a frequent burglary victim took action to defend

his Rockland, Maine, home. As reported by the *Portland Press Herald*, 67-year-old Harvey Lembo, a retired lobsterman who uses a motorized wheelchair, purchased a revolver after being the victim of five burglaries in six years. Later that night, Lembo awakened to find a home invader inside his apartment looking for prescription medication. Lembo retrieved the revolver, mounted his wheelchair, and confronted the criminal. At first Lembo attempted to hold the thief at gunpoint until police arrived, but was forced to shoot when the criminal acted "erratically." Lembo delivered a non-fatal shot to the thief's shoulder.

These stories are but a few real world examples that anti-gun advocates will never tell the public about. As these anecdotes attest, violence can strike anywhere and armed citizens are saving countless lives, in many cases without ever firing a shot.


The recent push to convince the public that guns aren't used for self-defense is being advanced by many anti-gun groups, but this false narrative is especially favored by the Violence Policy Center (VPC). This summer, VPC released a "study" titled, "Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun Use." The *Washington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times* were quick to uncritically parrot VPC talking points, without delving further into the facts.

I've written about VPC's bogus studies in the past, but because the media continues to report the false narrative about "rare" self-defensive gun uses, it's imperative to challenge their falsehoods with the facts yet again.

VPC's conclusions rely on justifiable homicide data collected by the FBI from reports by law enforcement agencies. Gary Kleck, a Florida State University professor of criminology, wrote "Targeting Guns: Firearms and Their Control" in 1997. In that book, the researcher explains "[f]or a variety of reasons, the FBI counts of civilian justifiable homicides represent only a minority of all civilian legal defensive homicides." In a later book, "Armed: New Perspectives on Gun Control," published in 2001, Kleck notes, "[d]etailed local homicide data suggest that the total number of civilian lawful defensive homicides could be four times higher than the FBI civilian justifiable homicide count." In short, the VPC relies on the wrong data to draw biased conclusions.

The *Washington Post* and *Los Angeles Times* reports also focused on the group's sensationalist conclusions regarding justifiable homicides. This whole line of thinking ignores the nature of defensive firearm use, because in the vast majority of cases, homicides do not occur. In fact, as many of the anecdotes above describe, most instances don't involve even the discharge of a firearm. As Kleck explains in his 2001 book, "[i]n the typical defensive gun use, the victim merely points the gun at the offender, or displays or verbally refers to the weapon in a threatening way... and this is sufficient to accomplish the ends of the victim."

Honest data and practical experience make it abundantly clear that Americans from all walks of life frequently use firearms for the defense of themselves and others. Any attempt to claim otherwise purposefully ignores the best available information, or, more simply, is willfully walking through life with political blinders on. However, none of this is a surprise. While the abandonment of logic and reason is normally considered a weakness, for gun control advocates, it's a strategy.

But this strategy will fail. When the media reports on the junk science of "rare" self-defensive gun uses, Americans aren't buying it. And this is true no matter how often this false narrative is repeated. A majority of Americans believe in the right to self defense and understand—through our common and shared experiences—that countless lives are saved by those exercising their Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms. There's nothing "rare" about it. And with the help of all NRA members standing united, there's nothing they can do to change it. 



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READERS WRITE

Grandpa's Gun

I thoroughly enjoyed the Stephen P. Fjestad article "Snake Venom Epidemic Paralyzes Colt Collectors" (September 2015, p. 62) on Colt's snake guns. Both my father and uncle worked for Colt Industries. As a young G.I., I joked with my dad about how I knew how well the war was going in Vietnam by how much overtime he was putting in. My dad was not a gun enthusiast, but I was. When he retired from Colt, he was given a choice of any gun they made. He asked me what I wanted, and I told him a nickel 6" Python. What I received was a 4" blued model. When I asked why, he told me, "Nickel guns are for pimps." I carried that gun for a number of years as a Stanislaus County deputy sheriff. When we went to autoloaders I retired it. For dad's 85th birthday, I had a nice presentation box made and gave it to him. When he died, mom asked me if I wanted it back, and I could not say yes fast enough. It shows some holster wear but has 90 percent of the blue. Now my son is waiting for the chance to own grandpa's gun.



ED WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA

Thanks for A Solid "Take"

I would like to thank Dr. Walt Kuleck for helping me understand the many variations of the AR in his story "The AR: A Half Dozen Takes" (August 2015, p. 70). Having returned to the world of guns after some years spent focusing on college (during which I sold my Mini-14, darn it), career and raising young children, I felt out of the loop when it came to the AR. In my younger years, one could buy an AR-15, and you could trick it out to be, well, pretty much what you got out of the box. The many uppers, stocks, optics and other options that one can add to the receiver these days, while wonderful, made my head spin. Walt brought a clarity to the AR world that I have not seen in any other article. As a result, I feel confident enough to peruse the AR racks at the gun show tomorrow without fear of revealing blatant ignorance. I now have a general idea of what I should be looking for in an AR platform. Thanks, Walt.



GARY GRUEN, VIA EMAIL

Our Apologies, Governor

The latest issue of *American Rifleman* has an excellent article regarding Magpul's move from Colorado to Wyoming, "The Magpul Way," (September 2015, p. 66). The picture caption on p. 67 is, however, sadly in error. This was taken at an open house which Magpul hosted. The gentleman with safety glasses shaking hands with a Magpul employee is our great governor, Matt Mead, with Laramie County Commissioner Troy Thompson behind him.

Thanks for everything NRA continues to do to defend our constitutional rights. I am looking forward to the issue where the presidential candidates tell us where they stand in regards to the Second Amendment.

PETER S. "PETE" ILLOWAY, WYOMING



"Readers Write" affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or e-mail us at publications@nrahq.org.



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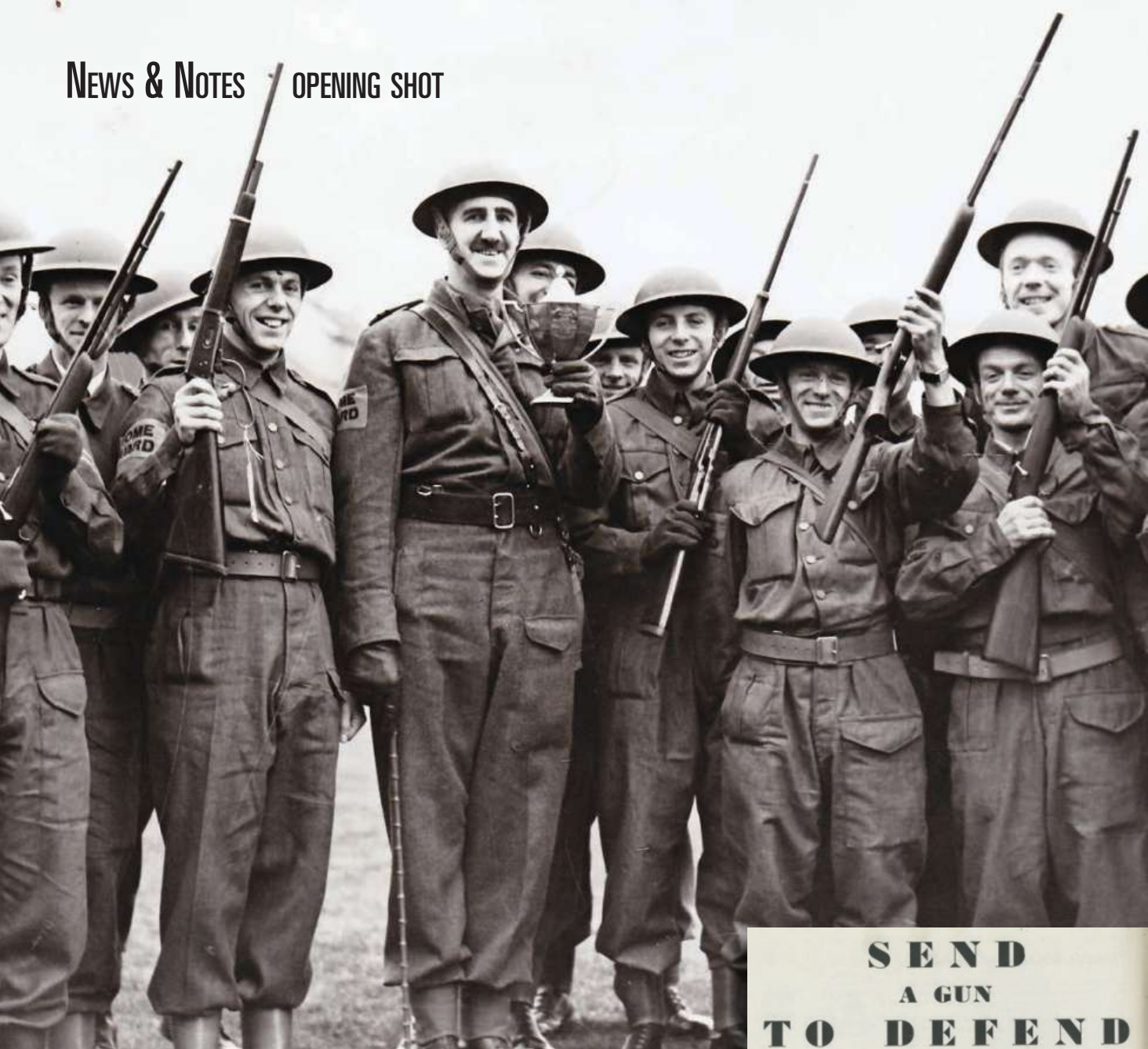
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75 Years Ago

Photo courtesy of Tom Laemlein, Armor Plate Press

Send A Gun To Defend A British Home

In 1940, the British stood alone against Hitler's advancing war machine. And thanks to a series of knee-jerk gun-control laws in the aftermath of World War I, a British civilian population that had allowed itself to be stripped of its firearms by its own government suddenly found itself needing to be re-armed very quickly. Fortunately for our ally, the generous American people had enough guns to spare. This advertisement (r.), run by The American Committee For The Defense Of British Homes, was published in the November 1940 *The American Rifleman*. Individual Americans answered the call back then, and today this poignant advertisement serves as a cautionary tale for any who would consider allowing themselves to be disarmed. British Home Guard troops (above) happily display their "gifts" from America. Sadly, most of these firearms were destroyed by the British following the war. To read about one historically significant rifle that was sent to England in response to this call to action and eventually victoriously made its way back home, visit americanrifleman.org/the-hession-rifle.

SEND A GUN TO DEFEND A BRITISH HOME

British civilians, faced with threat of invasion, desperately need arms for the defense of their homes.

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE
OF BRITISH HOMES

has organized to collect gifts of

PISTOLS—RIFLES—REVOLVERS
SHOTGUNS—BINOCULARS

from American civilians who wish to answer the call and aid in defense of British homes.

These arms are being shipped, with the consent of the British Government, to
CIVILIAN COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTION OF HOMES
BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

The members of which are Wickham Steed, Edward Hulton, and Lord Davies

YOU CAN AID

by sending any arms or binoculars you can spare to

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR
DEFENSE OF BRITISH HOMES

C. Suydam Cutting, Chairman

ROOM 100

10 WARREN STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

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112 MAGNUM TARGET, .338 LAPUA

Target Configuration, Single-Shot Magnum Target Action, Pillar-Bedded Wood-Laminate Stock

ACCUTRIGGER™



Available in Left-Hand
(Scope and bipod not included)

110 BA, .338 LAPUA

Tactical Configuration With All The "Bells And Whistles" Magpul PRS Adjustable Buttstock, Aluminum Accustock, Three-Sided Optic And Accessory Rail

ACCUTRIGGER™ ACCUSTOCK™



110 FCP HS PRECISION, .338 LAPUA

Tactical Configuration, HS Precision Fiberglass Stock, One-Piece Scope Rail

ACCUTRIGGER™



111 LONG RANGE HUNTER, .338 LAPUA

Lighter Weight Hunting Configuration, One-Piece Scope Rail

ACCUTRIGGER™ ACCUSTOCK™

SAVAGE DELIVERS THE SELECTION, ACCURACY AND THE POWER TO GET IN THE CLUB.

Want to hit a target from a mile away? Here are four great options from Savage to make it happen. Available in tactical, hunting and target configurations, you're sure to find your match. Each rifle delivers our legendary out-of-the-box accuracy at extreme range, thanks to our hand-straightened button rifled barrels; zero-tolerance headspace control and crisp, adjustable AccuTrigger. Utilizing the 338 Lapua Magnum, the most popular ultra-long-range cartridge of Snipers and target shooters alike, you have the power to reach out to 1,000+ yards... and yes, even a mile.



Savage Arms

SAVAGEARMS.COM

RANDOM SHOTS

Savage Issues Recall For B.MAG Rifle



Savage Arms has announced a product safety recall for a limited number of B.MAG .17 WSM rifle bolts. The company has discovered that the bolt on some B.MAG rifles may inadvertently contact the safety button and push it forward into the "fire" position. While Savage has received no reports of accidents due to this condition, the gun-maker has established a dedicated website (savagearms.com/recall/bmagbolt) and a hot-line—(844) 784-3301—where customers can identify whether they own an affected firearm, file a claim and receive a retrofit kit free of charge. To avoid a possible unintentional discharge, Savage asks that consumers refrain from using their B.MAG rifles until it has been determined whether a retrofit is necessary. Only B.MAGs with a serial number below J800928 are included in this recall. savagearms.com

IMR Issues Recall For 4007 SSC Powder

IMR Legendary Powders has announced a product safety warning and recall notice for six lots of IMR 4007 SSC smokeless powder. IMR has received reports that powder from the affected lots, sold in 1- and 8-lb. containers, may have become unstable due to potential rapid deterioration. The impacted lot numbers are as follows: 10130139, 10131139, 10429139, 10430139, 80425139 and 80426139. This number can be found printed vertically on the side of the bottle. IMR asks its customers to cease all use of the recalled product immediately, as continued use may result in spontaneous combustion, serious injury or fire damage. If in possession of a recalled product, fill the container with water to render the product inert and safe for disposal. Then mail, email or fax a copy of the label showing the lot number to IMR along with your name, address, phone number and email address. The company is offering to replace affected product with any other IMR smokeless powder product at no charge. Anyone in possession of ammunition loaded with powder from these six lots should pull the bullets, remove the propellant and wet it with water for safe disposal. IMR can be contacted at IMR Powder Company, 6430 Vista Drive, Shawnee, KS 66218, at help@imrpowder.com or by telephone at (800) 622-4366. imrpowder.com



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ABDO gives you ultra fast access while you carry concealed in plain sight.



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Concealment Case
\$49 MSRP**

Always abide by all local and federal laws concerning firearms ownership, handling and storage. Always think safety first!

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www.eaacorp.com/abdo

RANDOM SHOTS

S&W Donates To ILA

At the 2015 NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits in Nashville, Tenn., Smith & Wesson announced that it has donated \$1 million to NRA's Institute for Legislative Action. This gift is the latest donation made by S&W to NRA's various entities over the years. "We are proud to play our part by doing all we can to support the NRA-ILA and its efforts to preserve the rights of Americans to keep and bear arms," said S&W CEO James Debney. The NRA Institute for Legislative Action is responsible for NRA's legislative, legal and political efforts, and also educates Americans regarding the importance of their Second Amendment freedoms and hunting heritage. nraila.org



PRODUCT PREVIEWS

Pro Ears Pro 300

Noise-induced hearing damage, once suffered, is irreversible. And for those who spend much time around firearms, loud and sudden noises are a given, which makes quality hearing protection essential. The Pro Ears Pro 300 uses Dynamic Level Sound Compression technology to instantly compress all noises over the 70 dB threshold to a safe level while simultaneously amplifying low-pressure sounds to 70 dBs. As a result, the user is able to hear everything, including conversation, while still being protected from abrupt, high-volume sounds—such as a discharging firearm. Bearing a Noise Reduction Rating of 26 dBs, the Pro 300's comfortable leather ear cushions are filled with viscoelastic foam to ensure optimal sound attenuation. Each cup features an independent volume control, and utilizing two N batteries per cup, should give users approximately 250 hours of continuous use. The U.S.-made Pro Ears Pro 300 weighs 9 ozs. and comes with a three-year limited warranty. Price: \$230. Contact: Altus Brands, LLC (Dept. AR), 6893 Sullivan Road, Grawn, MI 49637; (800) 891-3660; proears.com.



RAPID FIRE

Charter Arms' Pitbull is chambered in the rimless .40 S&W cartridge, yet thanks to spring-loaded plungers in the ejector star, it does not require the use of moon clips. The Pitbull has a barrel length of 2.3", a weight of 20 ozs. and a five-shot capacity. charterfirearms.com



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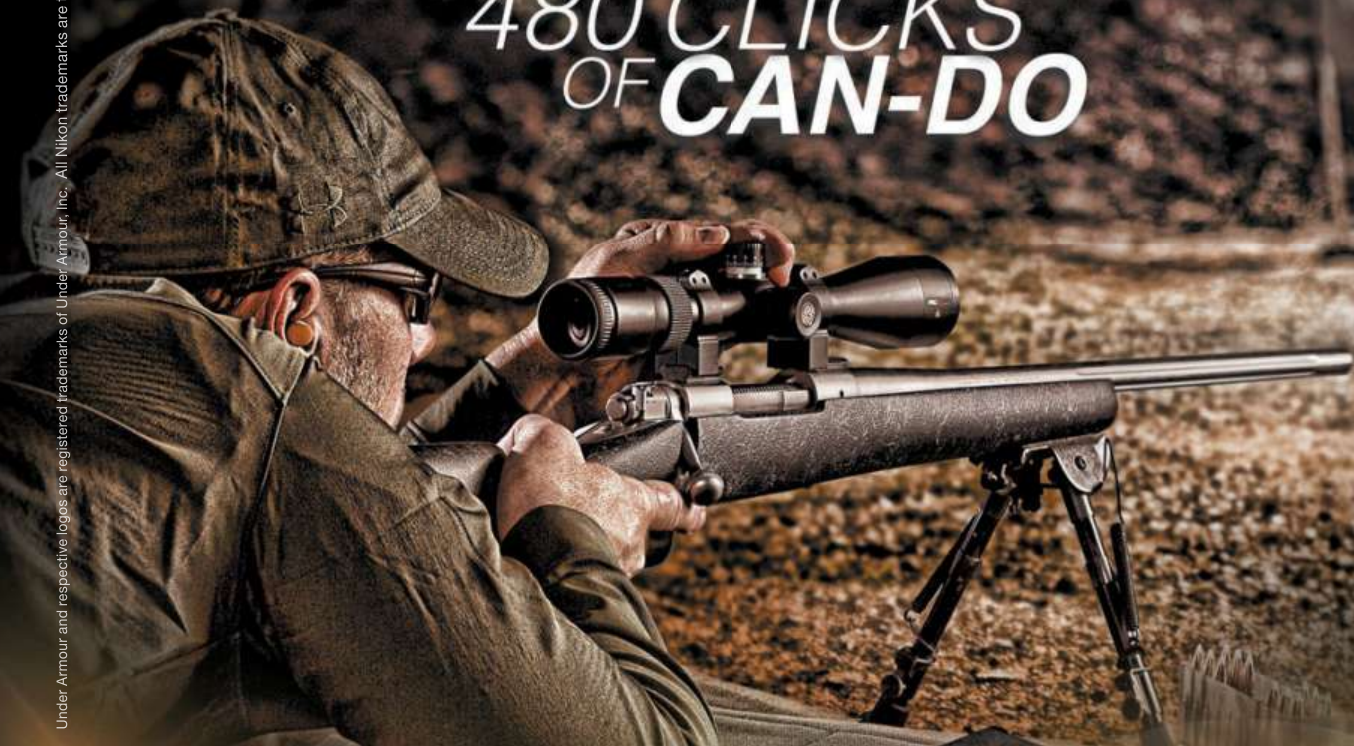


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30mm

PROSTAFF



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*Excludes products with electric components, lost or stolen products and intentionally caused damage.



Alien Gear Cloak Tuck 3.0

Alien Gear did not invent the winged IWB handgun holster, but the Idaho-based company's Cloak Tuck 3.0 has evolved the design in terms of construction, comfort and value. The key to the 3.0's success is its layered design, especially its spring steel core. The thin steel sheet flexes for comfortable wear while still providing a solid infrastructure that seats the gun firmly into the molded holster. A layer of ballistic nylon and a neoprene backer provide a cushion between the gun and its wearer, and a leather-like thermo elastomer face protects the gun and, thanks to its "alien skin" texturing, helps hold it in place. The holster shell itself is molded polymer—Boltaron—and exhibits clean lines and full coverage from the trigger guard to the muzzle and front sights.

Adjustment of the holster's cant, ride height and retention is facilitated by screws, nuts and spacers, and the clip attachment ports (three on each wing). In terms of belt attachment, the 3.0 is available with several options, from standard nylon belt clips to leather loops. As with other Alien Gear products, the Cloak Tuck 3.0 also comes with the company's triple guarantee that includes a 30-day buyback, shell trade-in and a warranty on parts.

In reviewing this holster's immediate predecessor, the Cloak Tuck 2.0, in an IWB "Round Up" earlier this year (February 2015, p. 32), I found it to be an excellent value, but in need of refinement in terms of fit and retention. I tested the 3.0 with three different guns—Springfield XD Sub-Compact (9 mm Luger, 24 ozs.), Kimber Super Carry Pro (.45 ACP, 28 ozs.) and Republic Forge Patriot (.38 Super, 40 ozs.)—over the course of two months, and was impressed by its comfort, concealment and ease of carry, regardless of the pistol's weight. By listening to critics and continuing to evolve, Alien Gear has developed a holster that not only boasts best-in-class value, but also offers first-tier performance. Price: \$44. Contact: Alien Gear Holsters (Dept. AR), 827 W. Prairie Ave., Hayden, Idaho 83835; (208) 215-2046; aliengearholsters.com.

—JOSEPH L. KURTENBACH, MANAGING EDITOR



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PRODUCT PREVIEWS

ShotLock HSV 200E

ShotLock, manufacturer of the Solo-Vault line of individual gun safes for shotguns, handguns and the AR platform, has introduced its new HSV 200E—a sturdy, electromechanical handgun safe that is easily installed in the home, under a desk or inside a vehicle. With internal dimensions measuring 9"x7¼"x2¼", the HSV 200E has space enough to accommodate most full-size semi-automatic pistols (including a Government Model M1911) with spare room for additional magazines, and revolvers with up to 3" barrels. The HSV 200E is constructed of 14-ga. steel and features a flanged, pry-resistant lid and a tamper-proof locking mechanism. Felt-lined internal surfaces protect the firearm, while six holes in the bottom of the unit allow for easy installation to any solid, flat surface. Four large buttons are used to input the (up to 10-digit) entry code. Powered by four AA batteries, the safe also comes with a low-battery indicator and an emergency battery backup for when the internal power source fails. The ShotLock HSV 200E can also be manually opened with one of three provided keys. Price: \$150. Contact: ShotLock (Dept. AR), 315 Township St., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284; (800) 852-0400; shotlock.com.



Freedom Armory Machine Works Grenadier 45

The Freedom Armory Machine Works Grenadier 45 is the company's second suppressor design to utilize its Gas Indexing Technology, which allows the user to custom optimize the unit's sound-reduction capabilities for each gun with which it is used. Different guns can generate different muzzle gas pressures using the same ammunition, and the GIT system allows the Grenadier 45's baffle ports to be rotated so that they are aligned in a straight line for performance in high-pressure applications and then quickly rearranged into a spiral configuration that favors low-pressure use. The Grenadier 45 is a .45-cal. suppressor that provides up to 32 dBs of noise reduction, can handle up to the potent .458 SOCOM cartridge and is rated for full-automatic fire with .45 ACP and 9 mm Luger ammunition. Unlike many other designs, the Grenadier 45 allows for complete disassembly of all components, including the piston housing, without the need for special tools. All parts are titanium, with the exception of the stainless steel piston and piston spring. Price: \$950. Contact: Freedom Armory Machine Works (Dept. AR), 10598 2nd Amendment Drive, Glen Rock, PA 17327; (717) 227-9060; famachineworks.com.



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WHERE CAN I GET ...?

A Durable USB Device Charger Designed For Outdoor Use

For better or worse, outdoorsmen and -women are increasingly dependent on technology in the field. Smart phones are engaged in the hunting woods and on the range to call home, check-in game, gauge the weather, enter shot data into ballistic apps and more. Though cellular coverage seems to improve yearly, outlets for charging devices remain scarce once a shooter leaves the comfort of his or her truck. The My Charge All Terrain USB charger is designed to be, essentially, outdoor-proof. Rubber armor surrounds and protects the charger body and cap. When the unit is closed and latched, the rubber compresses together forming a water-resistant seal. The charger is easily portable, weighing less than 4 ozs. and possesses dimensions similar to a small flashlight (4"x1.5"x1.1"). The lithium ion battery has a 3000 mAh capacity—touted to provide 22 hours of energy, depending on device and usage—and is rechargeable via the included mini-USB cable. Power output is 2.1A through the unit's integral USB port,

though users will need to use device-appropriate USB cables. For those who answer the call of the wild, the My Charge All Terrain supplies the portable power to stay connected.

Price: \$40. Contact: My Charge (Dept. AR), 123 W. Brown St., Birmingham, MI 48009; mycharge.com.

—JOSEPH L. KURTENBACH, MANAGING EDITOR



RAPID FIRE

Bravo Concealment

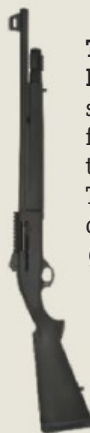
offers durable Kydex double magazine pouches in five colors, three belt loop sizes, left- or right-side accessibility and with an optional slant cut for comfort during dynamic movements.

bravoconcealment.com



The Mossberg SA-20

Railed is a 20-ga. tactical semi-automatic shotgun for those who don't want the recoil of a 12 gauge. The compact, 6-lb. shotgun comes with a 3" chamber, ghost ring/fiber-optic sights and three Picatinny rail sections on the magazine cap. mossberg.com



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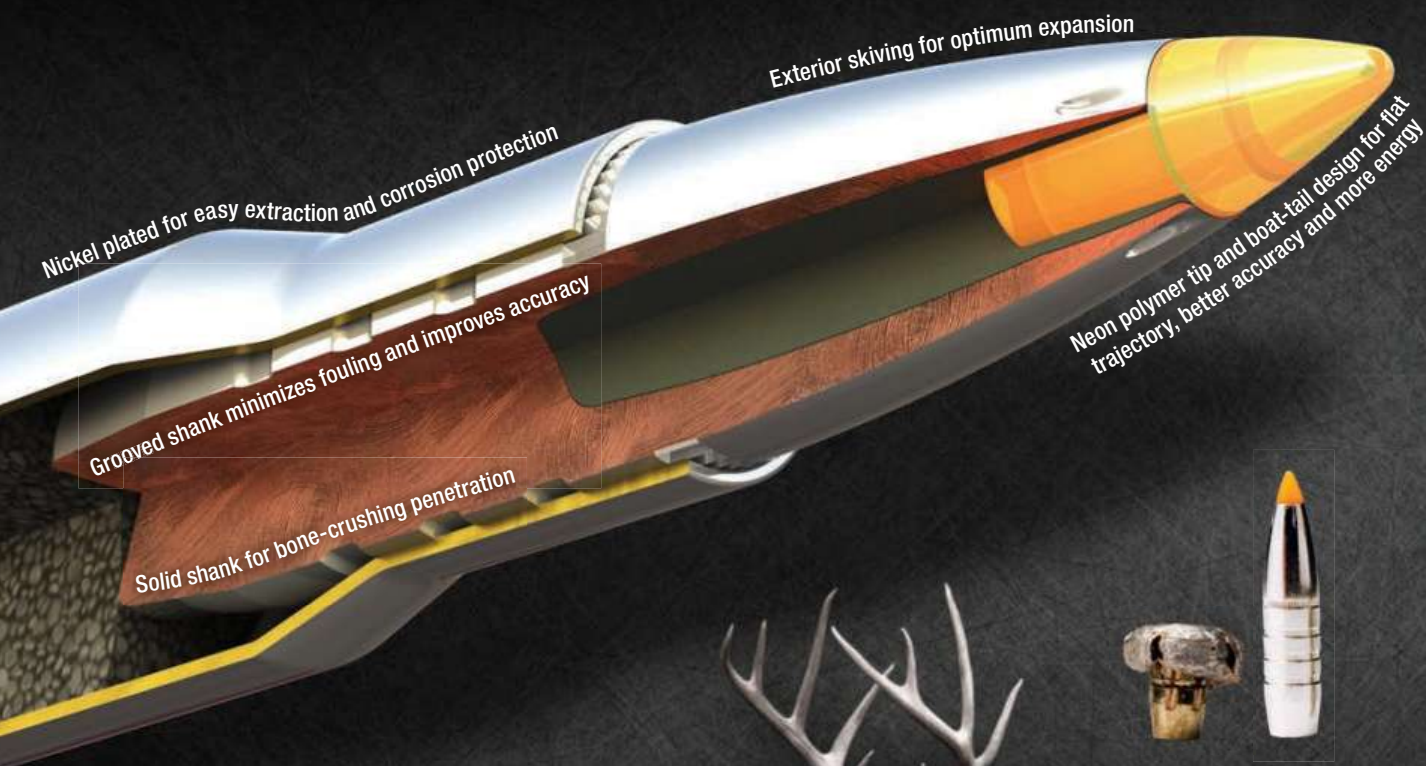


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More Precision

As you could no doubt tell from the August 2015 cover story, "An 'Interesting' Development: The Ruger Precision Rifle," we found a lot to like about the accurate, affordable and innovative bolt gun. Senior Executive Editor Brian C. Sheetz takes you behind the scenes at Ruger's Newport, N.H., factory to dig deeper into the rifle, interviewing the engineers behind it, as well as company CEO Mike Fifer. Check your local listings, and tune in Wednesday nights on the Outdoor Channel.

Wednesday, November 4

Feature..... The Ruger Precision Rifle
Rifleman Review Stag Arms Model 9T 9 mm Luger Carbine
I Have This Old Gun Japanese Type 99 Rifle

Wednesday, November 11

Feature..... The Making Of Ruger Revolvers
Rifleman Review Taurus Curve .380 ACP Pistol
I Have This Old Gun Czech Vz. 52 Carbine

Wednesday, November 18

Feature..... The Guns & Gunsmiths Of Nighthawk Custom
Rifleman Review SIG Sauer M400 5.56x45 mm NATO Carbine
I Have This Old Gun Enfield No. 2 Revolver

Wednesday, November 25

Feature..... More Than Just LaserGrips: Crimson Trace
Rifleman Review Browning 1911-380 .380 ACP Pistol
I Have This Old Gun Reising Model 50 Submachine Gun



Smith & Wesson

Remington.



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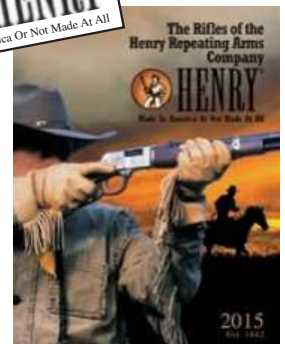
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Belt-Fed .30 Carbine?

Q I have a question about the .30 M1 Carbine cartridge. I have a friend who was stationed at Dutch Harbor with the Navy in the 1970s, and he said he had a belt that had .30 Carbine cartridges in it and his job was to take them out of the belt. I don't know if the belt was cloth or metal. I was at a cartridge show and picked up a .30 Carbine cartridge that was pointed like a .30-cal. rifle cartridge. It had a "45" stamp on it, and it was made from steel. It was too long to fit in the M1 carbine magazine. Did the military ever experiment with a light machine gun using the .30 Carbine cartridge?

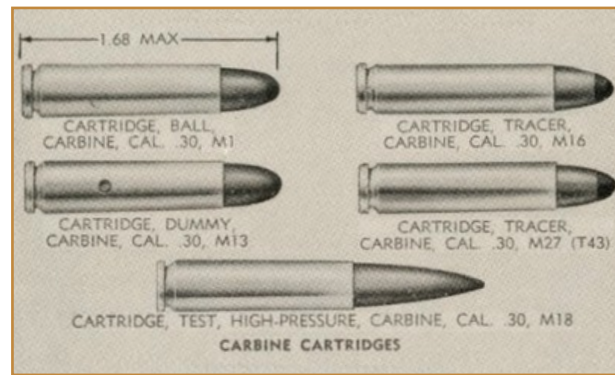
A Thanks for your recent letter. There is absolutely no evidence that the American military did any experimentation with a belt-fed (or any other type)

light machine gun chambered for the .30 Carbine cartridge. In any event, the .30 M1 Carbine cartridge would be much too anemic for use in a light machine gun.

I strongly suspect the carbine cartridge you saw with the pointed-tip bullet and longer-than-normal length was an "M18" high-pressure proof cartridge. These were used to "proof test" carbines

at the factory and were singly loaded into the gun, thus did not feed through the magazine so the longer length was not an issue. These were made in both brass and tinned case configurations.

—BRUCE CANFIELD, FIELD EDITOR



From the thousands of questions and letters on guns, ammunition and their use that American Rifleman receives every year, it publishes the most interesting here. Receiving answers to technical and historical questions is a privilege reserved to NRA members.

Questions must be in the form of letters addressed to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400; must contain the member's code line from an *American Rifleman* or *American Hunter* mailing label or membership card; must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed, legal-size envelope; and must be limited to one specific question per letter. Non-members may submit a question with a membership application. We cannot answer technical or historical questions by telephone, e-mail or fax, and we cannot place even an approximate value on guns or other equipment. Please allow eight to 10 weeks for replies.

"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors: Bruce N. Canfield, Garry James, Charles Pate, Charles E. Petty, Matt Sharpe, John M. Taylor and John Treakle.

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New Product Announcement

Long known for concealment holsters that look like something they're not, Sneaky Pete has expanded their product choices by creating a wide selection of colors and materials to suit specific needs and tastes. Now there's a new material that's been added; Camouflage! Made from the same high-quality ballistic nylon that Sneaky Pete has already made famous, the Camouflage Nylon Holster not only capitalizes on the utility of Camouflage, but also on its stylishness. Available for \$44.95 in a wide variety of sizes, you can now order one directly online.

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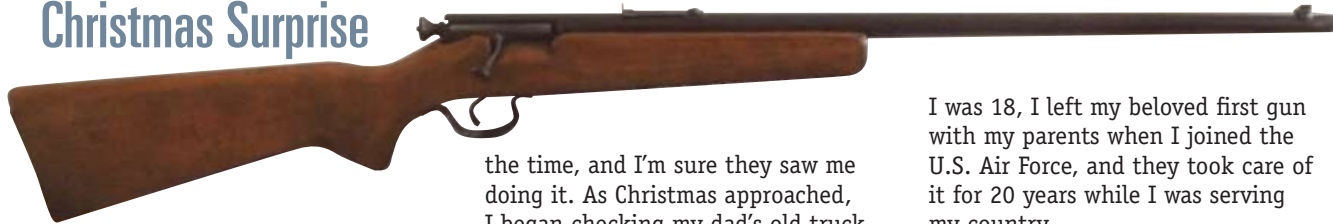
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Christmas Surprise



In the fall of 1947, I was looking through the fall edition of a Sears, Roebuck catalog when I found a J.C. Higgins single-shot in .22 Long Rifle. The cost was a mere \$12. My heart pounded as I looked at it, and I wanted it so much for Christmas; however, I knew it was out of the question. I came from a very poor family—remember now, it was in 1947—and things were tough. My dad was the only provider for the family, often working long hours six days a week, as my mom stayed at home to care for our family. I never asked my parents for the rifle, because I knew it was out of the question.

But I looked at the catalog all

the time, and I'm sure they saw me doing it. As Christmas approached, I began checking my dad's old truck each evening. I didn't expect to find anything, but I never gave up hope. On Christmas morning, I came down the stairs to the living room and there under the Christmas tree was that beautiful .22-cal. rifle. I cannot explain the joy that this 12-year-old boy felt.

I spent countless hours in the field, woods and river hunting anything I could find. I took many squirrels, rabbits, doves, quail, ducks and even a Canada goose with it. When

I was 18, I left my beloved first gun with my parents when I joined the U.S. Air Force, and they took care of it for 20 years while I was serving my country.

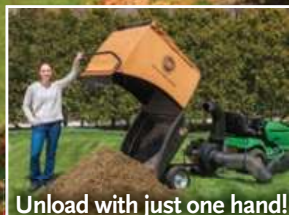
The gun is still in near-perfect condition. While I now have other guns—some expensive and some cheap—that old, bolt-action .22 has been and always will be my favorite. While it only cost \$12, it has given me countless happy hours over the years and many priceless memories. I have tagged this rifle to be given to my youngest grandson, who I know will keep it, use it and someday pass it on down to his son.

BILL CARAWAN, JR., NORTH CAROLINA

NRA member photo

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on americanrifleman.org, send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.

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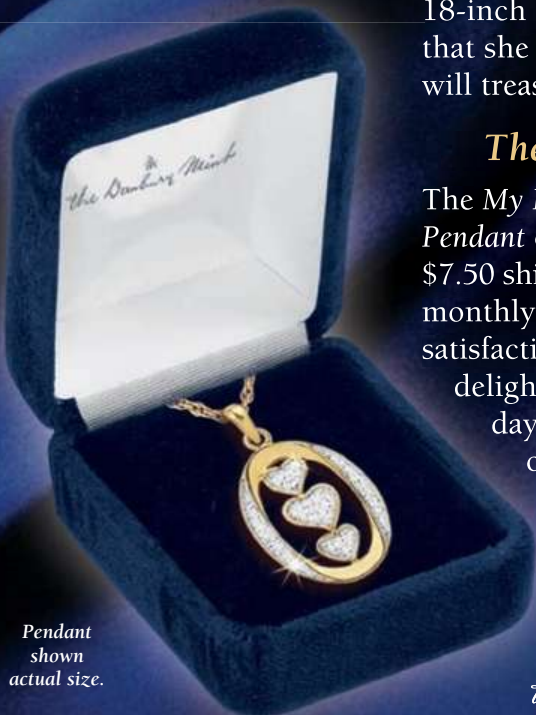
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Federal Premium Personal Defense .380 ACP HST Ammunition

BY AARON CARTER, FIELD EDITOR

Introduced in 1908, the John Browning-designed .380 ACP cartridge is oftentimes decried as being marginal for use as a personal-protection cartridge. But because it has been so widely distributed—it is also known as the .380 Auto, 9 mm Browning, 9 mm Corto, 9 mm Kurz, 9 mm Short, 9x17 mm and 9 mm Browning Court—and is easily chambered in compact and lightweight handguns, it is frequently pressed into service for exactly that purpose. Excellent

examples of conveniently concealable .380 ACP platforms abound today and include: the Kel-Tec P-3AT, Ruger LCP, SIG Sauer P238, Taurus 738 TCP, Walther PK380, Diamondback DB380, Kimber Micro Carry, Smith & Wesson M&P Bodyguard 380 and Colt .380 Mustang. All are compact, lightweight and, therefore, not apt to be left behind for reasons of inconvenience.

But even ardent proponents of the .380 ACP don't consider it the equal of its lengthier .35-cal. sibling, the 9 mm Luger. And while it's likely adequate



Marketed toward users of "micro" pistols (l.), the .380 ACP HST JHP load from Federal incorporates the HST's expanding hollow point (r.) while including several minor changes.

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FROM THE BENCH



for unobstructed, close-range confrontations, it's by no means capable of completing the gamut of barrier tests outlined in the so-called "FBI protocol."

HST: Past & Present

Despite that fact, Federal Premium recently added the .380 ACP chambering to its line of HST jacketed-hollow-point (JHP) bullet ammunition—an improved version of the vaunted Hydra-Shok—which finally became available to the civilian market 11 years after it was first presented to the law enforcement community. That the new .380 ACP was included in the Personal Defense HST JHP line

The author shot .380 HST from a Ruger LCP, noting nose deformation due to feeding, (far l.) and into various media, including (l. to r.): three water jugs and a Bullet Test TUBE (BTT); plywood, three water jugs and a BTT; and two BTTs standing side-by-side (note cardboard plug).

alongside the 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP offerings—all of which excelled against the FBI-prescribed barriers—is a bit puzzling in that it was not designed for such service.

In creating the jacketed-hollow-point HST projectile, Federal Premium sought to remedy Hydra-Shok's weakness while also satisfying requests by governmental and law enforcement agencies. Concerning the former, at low velocity the Hydra-Shok's cavity was (and still is) susceptible to clogging with

clothing or other "barrier" materials, thereby minimizing, and possibly preventing, expansion. That can cause reduced energy dispersion and excessive penetration. Given that the shorter barrel lengths of most "pocket" or "micro" pistols typically yield lower velocities, that was especially problematic. Law enforcement also called for a projectile that had a larger frontal expansion diameter without reduced penetration—no small feat, especially when encountering FBI barrier testing protocol.

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FROM THE BENCH

To overcome Hydra-Shok's blockage deficiency, and thus ensure consistent, reliable expansion, the HST JHP's nose was weakened to make it more forgiving when penetrating barriers. The engineers also utilized skiving (coaligned, internal and external) that resulted in six sharp petals, thereby producing a large frontal diameter with a smaller cross section—thanks to preprogrammed “peaks” and “valleys”—that facilitated deep penetration. Typical expansion for .35-, .40-, and .45-cal. HST bullets is 1.75 to two times the bullets' pre-upset diameters. Because bonding requires a soft (i.e. low-antimony) lead core, which is prone to “washing off” when encountering “hard” barriers, such as automobile glass, and thus negatively affecting penetration, the HST JHP relies solely on a mechanical lock—the cannelure—to prevent the tapered jacket from separating from the lead-alloy core. Weight retention averages 95 to 100 percent of the

pre-expansion amount and, depending on the barrier encountered, penetration in calibrated 10 percent gelatin ranges from 12" to 18".

The aforementioned design characteristics resulted in consistent, reliable terminal performance in the initial HST offerings, but they could not ensure the same in a .380 ACP variant, therefore, numerous refinements were required. According to the ammunition engineers at Federal Premium, “Design modifications required to achieve success on this design were numerous: alloy modification, jacket thickness and taper, internal and external skiving geometry and depths, ogive profile, and hollow-point geometry. The limited energy, as well as limited physical space available in the .380 cartridge, were the biggest hurdles to overcome.”

As with the other HST offerings, the .380 ACP is relatively heavy-for-caliber at 99 grs. In fact, it's among the heaviest self-defense-specific

projectiles in the chambering. “High-performance projectiles and loads were found to be achievable at 90 and 95 grs. as well,” the engineers explained. “However, the performance data drove us to the 99-gr. design, which provided the most consistent performance and balanced several key factors. Its higher weight provides slightly better penetration depth than the other design paths while achieving equal or larger expanded diameters. The lower muzzle velocity yields a longer recoil impulse to reduce the perceived sharpness of recoil in the micro handguns, as well as providing a longer action for slide stroke to help ensure reliable feed and function.”

Bullets that exceeded 99 grs. in weight were found to displace too much propellant, thus negatively affecting terminal performance. Despite its weight, though, factory numbers tout the 0.355"-diameter projectile as attaining 1030 f.p.s. and



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FROM THE BENCH

producing 233 ft.-lbs. of energy. Driving the HST JHP are low-flash, fast-burning propellants that preserve visual acuity in low light and attain maximum velocities from “pocket” pistols’ abbreviated barrels. Completing the load are corrosion-resistant and smooth-feeding nickel-plated-brass cases.

Performance Parameters

The new load, Personal Defense .380 ACP HST JHP, brings well-regarded bullet technology to the raft of aforementioned pocket pistols. But since the .380 ACP is not particularly well-suited for anything beyond close engagements, I inquired about the Personal Defense .380 ACP HST JHP’s terminal performance when striking bare gelatin and gelatin cloaked with the FBI-specified “Heavy Clothing” fabrics. Federal Premium’s ammunition engineers responded, “In calibrated 10 percent gel you should get 8.5”-9.5” inches of penetration for bare gel. Expansion will depend on the achieved muzzle velocity, which is firearm-dependent, but should be greater than 0.600” in bare gel. With FBI-Heavy Clothing (denim, fleece, dress shirt, T-shirt), it usually penetrates 0.5”-1.0” deeper than the same gun in bare gel. Heavy Clothing expansions typically run just under 0.600” average diameter.” Given the front-to-back distance, or thickness, of the thoracic cavity, that’s about ideal penetration, and 0.600” post-expansion width is approaching 1.75 times the unexpanded bullet diameter—again, perfect.

Without convenient access to calibrated ballistic gelatin, I resorted to using my last reserves of the discontinued Bullet Test TUBE, as well as one-gallon water bottles and a remnant piece of 5/8”-thick plywood. Although the Bullet Test TUBE contains a wax-like material, in numerous past bullet tests it has proven capable of causing a projectile to expand, and is able to capture both the wound cavity and upset bullet.

In an effort to test the HST’s hollow point, I shot two Bullet Test TUBES side-by-side and perpendicular to the bore at 7 yds., purposefully exposing the HST to a thick layer of cardboard before (and after) encountering the wax-like media.

The result: the HST’s cavity clogged and the bullet failed to expand, stopping at the backside of the second TUBE with a circular cardboard disk contained within its cavity. A second shot produced an identical result—a non-expanded bullet. Believing that the projectile needed “hydraulic action” to reliably expand, I next stood three water-filled, one-gallon plastic containers back to back with a Bullet Test TUBE as a backer. In three consecutive tests only one HST upset, stopping in the second container; it expanded to 0.610” and weighed 98.7 grs. According to Federal’s ammunition engineers, “At velocity [HST’s] initial contact with water is very hard, but once relative motion has started it doesn’t offer the same hydraulic resistance as gelatin (much less).”

Next, the same test was replicated, albeit with the 5/8”-thick plywood in front of the water container and, once again, the bullets failed to expand; in fact, the bullets penetrated the plywood and all three water-filled jugs, stopping only several inches inside of the Bullet Test TUBE—talk about penetration! Lastly, I shot the Personal Defense .380 ACP HST load into lightly cloaked (i.e. T-shirt) and non-cloaked Bullet Test TUBES, again at 7 yds., where no cardboard was encountered before striking the media. This time the HST bullets reliably expanded. Measuring one of the projectiles revealed 0.612”-diameter expansion, while the retained weight was 99 grs.—zero weight loss! Because of the density of the Bullet Test TUBE’s wax-like media, penetration can be expected to be much less than in ordnance gelatin; the bullets penetrated around 4”.

To evaluate accuracy, I fired Personal Defense .380 ACP HST using a Ruger LCP off a sandbag rest at 7 yds. The average size for five consecutive, five-shot groups was an excellent 0.78”. Chronographing the load, though, proved eye opening; according to a Competition Electronics chronograph placed 5 ft. from the muzzle, from the 2¾” barrel, the 99-gr. HST attained an average velocity 899 f.p.s. for 10 consecutive shots. The standard deviation was a respectable 12. Due to the

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FROM THE BENCH

reduced velocity, the actual energy produced was 178 ft.-lbs., not the 233 ft.-lbs. shown on Federal Premium's website. The discrepancy is due to the company using a 3¾" test barrel rather than one with a length more akin to that of an actual "pocket" pistol. In fact, out of 10 pocketable pistols on the market, the average barrel length is just 2.99". The test barrel's extra inch of barrel adds 130 f.p.s. Federal isn't the only company to test the .380 in a longer-than-average-length barrel—Winchester uses a 3¾" and Hornady a 4". Lastly, although the HST JHP load worked without malfunction, it was noted that the bullet's nose was easily deformed. In fact, at times simply feeding from the magazine to the chamber was enough to disfigure it.

Given the abundance of .380 ACP-chambered "pocket" or "micro" pistols being carried daily by armed citizens, to Federal Premium the cartridge was a natural choice for an HST line extension. But, besides appearance (before and after expansion) an HST it is not; HSTs in 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W and .45 ACP are designed (and proven) to be barrier-blind, while the .380 ACP variant isn't. Despite the incomparability with the rest of the HST line, however, the load appears to function properly where the cartridge works best and for which purpose it was designed—unobstructed engagements at close range.

Federal Premium Personal Defense .380 ACP HST JHP retails for \$26 per 20 rounds. 

*Contact: Federal Premium
Ammunition (Dept. AR), 900 Ehlen Drive,
Anoka, MN 55303; (800) 379-1732;
federalpremium.com*

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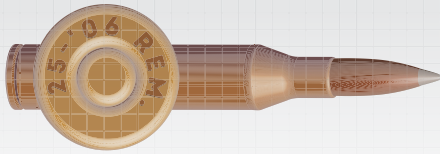
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No Quarter ... Bore

For the one-gun rifleman who seldom pursues game larger than deer, and who also needs to rid the pasture of hogs and coyotes, there may be no better choice than the flat-shooting .25-'06 Rem. Truth be known, the mild-mannered cartridge's ability to utilize bullets weighing upward of 120 grs. makes it a much better choice for big-game hunting than the .243 Win., even for youth, novices and the recoil shy, while 115- and 120-gr. projectiles are equally effective for large quarry as 130-gr. bullets in the .270 Win., but with less recoil. As you can see, this .25-cal. cartridge is no quarter-bore.

—AARON CARTER, FIELD EDITOR

.25-'06 REM.

BULLET: NOSLER 100-GR. E-TIP
PROPELLANT/CHARGE:

RELOADER-19/52.0 GRs.

PRIMER: WLR

CASE: HORNADY

CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 2.484"

CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 3.170"

VELOCITY @ 10' (FPS.): 3020

ENERGY (FT.-LBS.): 2,025

ACCURACY: 1.24"

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Gun owners set to get free survival food

Farmers vow to keep up with the rush to supply every gun owner who calls toll free and beats the deadline to claim up to 4 free 72-hour survival food kits.

In a crisis, your number one need is food. But not just any food. What everyone needs is good-for-25-years survival food that you can rely on when the time comes that food is scarce.

Well right now – in what is truly an unprecedented move – 72-hour Food4Patriots survival food kits are being given away to readers who are gun owners as long as they call a special toll-free hotline and beat the program deadline.

"This is all happening because we're worried that the people in Washington have an agenda that is about more than just guns and ammo," explained Frank Bates, a spokesman for the company.

"Control the food, control the people. We already know that they're coming after our guns ... food could be next, and none of us wants to ever rely on this or any government to keep our families fed."

Experts say that everyone needs at least a 72-hour supply of nonperishable food on hand.

Every 72-hour kit that's being given away contains four servings each of such familiar dishes as Liberty Bell Potato Cheddar Soup, Blue Ribbon Creamy Chicken Rice, Travelers Stew, and the always loved Granny's Homestyle Potato Soup.

The company's usual price for the 72-hour kit is \$27.00 plus shipping.



Gun owners are flocking to claim their free 72-hour survival food kits before the deadline.

But gun owners who act quickly can pay only the \$9.95 shipping and handling fee for each kit claimed through this offer.

Bates pointed out that the foods in this kit are all packed in durable, resealable Mylar pouches that guarantee a shelf life of at least 25 years.

"We're trying to ensure no gun owner gets left out, but they have to hurry because we have a limited supply of the 72-hour kits we can give away," Bates warned. "And the program will be ended no matter what at midnight, December 15, 2015."

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Approval Code: 72FREE

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-641-2660

Offer Cut-Off Date: 12/15/2015

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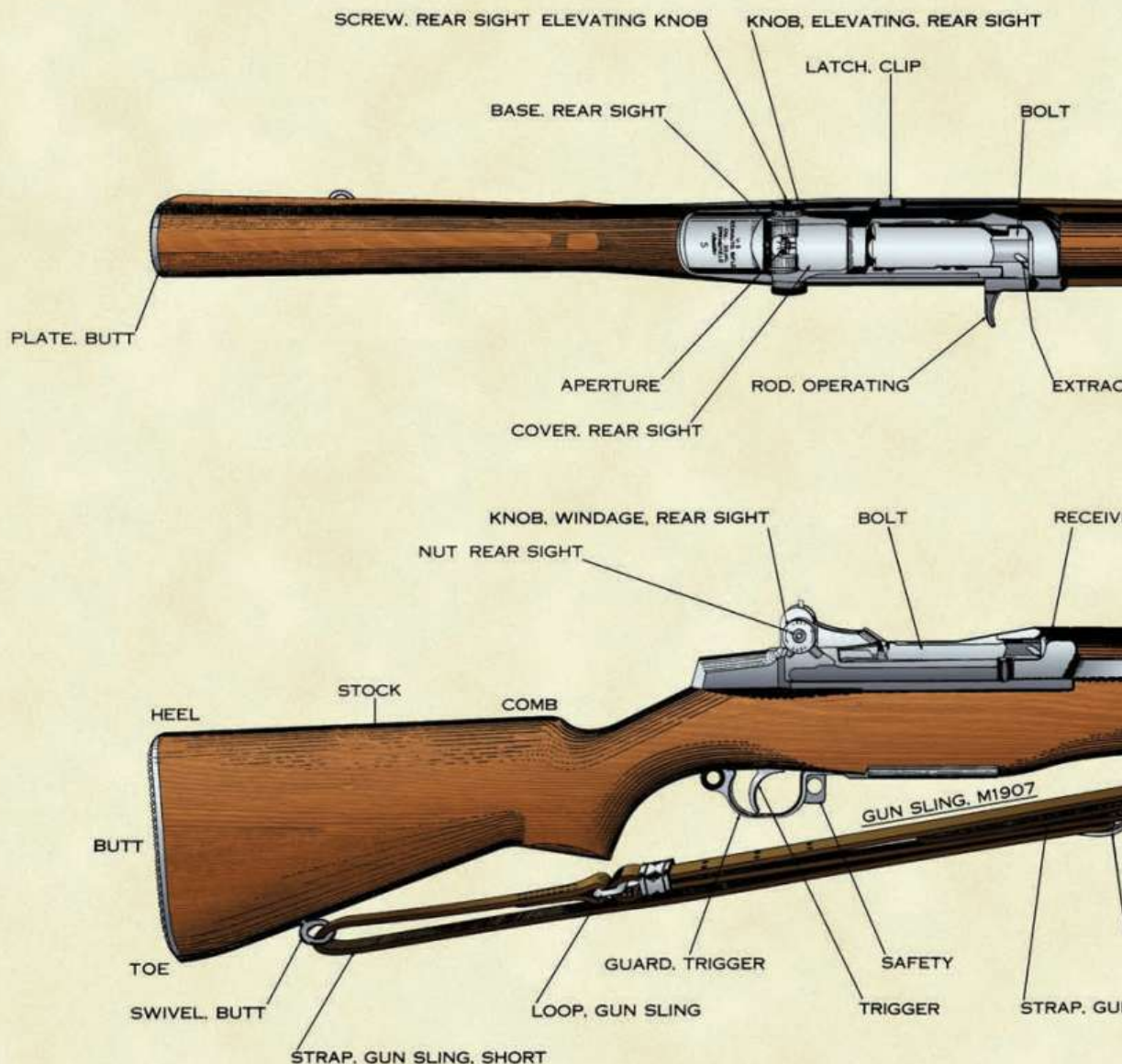
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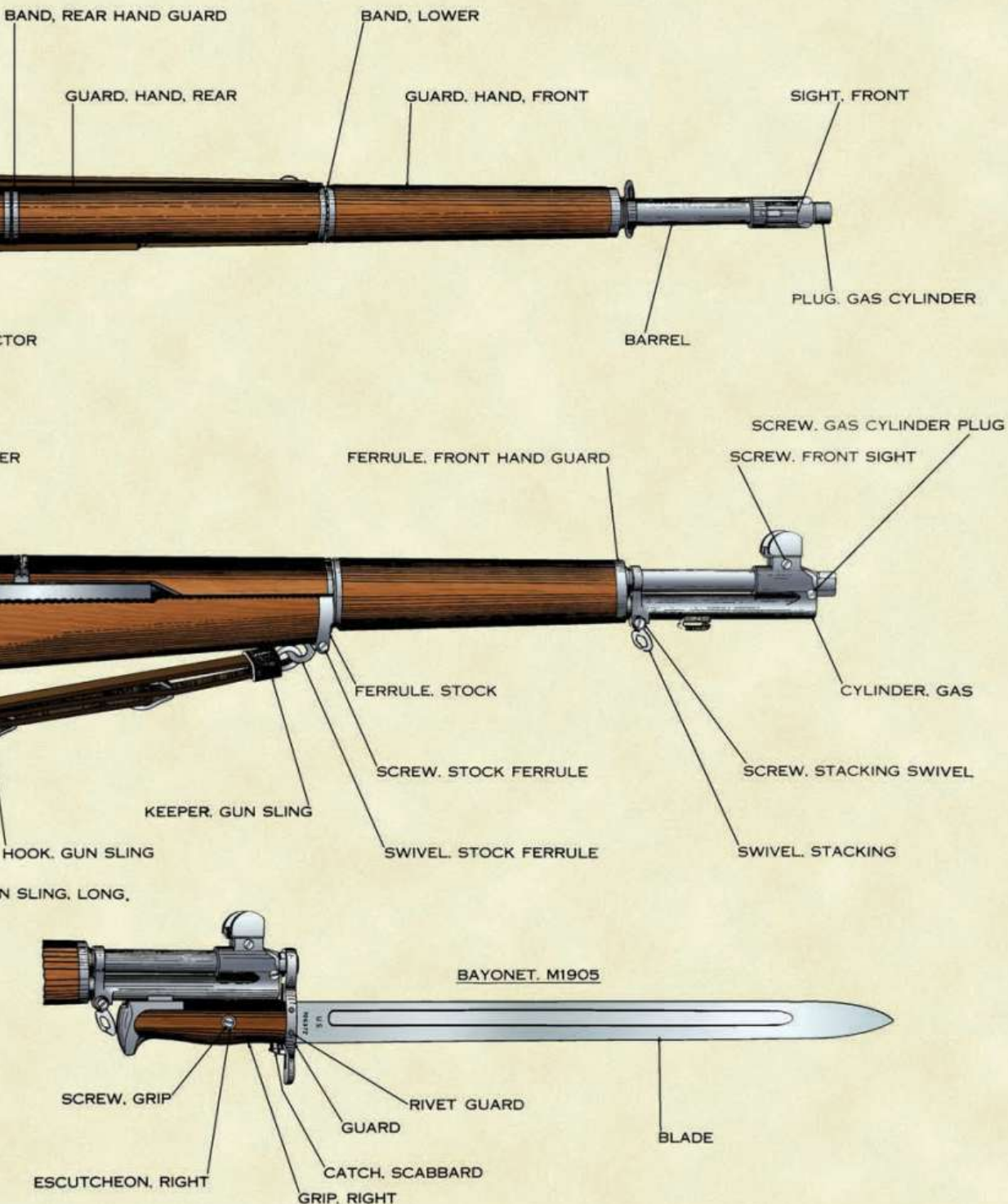
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The “U.S. Rifle, Caliber .30, M1” as adopted in 1936—and on the cover of the August 1938 *The American Rifleman*—was not altogether the same rifle as used during World War II and later. Shown here, in a U.S. Ordnance Dept. drawing, is the original M1, which used a “gas trap” system as opposed to the “gas port” design of guns made beginning in 1940. Go to americanrifleman.org/gastrap to learn more about the gas trap M1s. For more on the Garands built by International Harvester Corp. in the 1950s, turn the page.

RIFLE CALIBER .30 M1





COLD WAR WARRIOR



THE INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER M1 GARAND RIFLE

While many manufacturing companies made guns for the first time during World War II, International Harvester went into the Garand business in 1951—a time in which the threat of nuclear war loomed large.

BY BRUCE N. CANFIELD, *Field Editor*

At the conclusion of World War II, the M1 Garand had garnered a well-deserved reputation as the best standardized service rifle of the conflict. Large numbers of Garands were in inventory after Victory over Japan Day, and it was assumed they were sufficient to meet the needs of our armed forces for the foreseeable future. Five years later, though, this illusion was shattered when hostilities commenced on the Korean Peninsula. Many of the M1 rifles left over from World War II were taken from storage and refurbished for issue to troops departing overseas. To augment the supply of existing rifles, the U.S. Ordnance Dept. elected to put the M1 rifle back into production. Springfield

Armory ramped up its Garand production line as quickly as possible, but additional sources were needed. As was often the case in previous wars, the government turned to civilian firms for production of all manner of military items, including firearms.

On June 15, 1951, the Ordnance Dept. granted a contract for 100,000 M1 rifles to the International Harvester Co (IHC). The rifles were to be manufactured at the firm's Evansville, Ind., plant with deliveries scheduled to begin in December 1952. The Evansville facility was built during World War II by the Republic Aviation Corp. for production of the P-47 Thunderbolt fighter. In 1945, International Harvester bought the former aircraft factory and converted

it for manufacture of farm implements and refrigeration and air conditioning units.

The selection of International Harvester was, to say the least, a rather interesting choice. Although the company manufactured vehicles—including half-tracks, trucks and tractors—during World War II, the firm had never made firearms, either civilian or military. One of the major reasons behind the government's seemingly unusual selection of International Harvester to produce M1 rifles was the plant's geographic location. All of the more than 4 million M1 rifles that had been previously made by Springfield Armory and Winchester were manufactured within a radius of about 60 miles (the

IHC GARANDS

distance between Springfield, Mass., and New Haven, Conn.). This may not have seemed important in the late 1930s or early 1940s, but the dawn of the Atomic Age put it in an entirely different perspective. Since most of the established armsmakers were in the New England area, a nuclear attack on the Eastern Seaboard could conceivably cripple the manufacture of military small arms in the United States. The Department of Defense established a policy of geographic dispersion of vital defense production to mitigate vulnerability to a nuclear strike. The fact that Evansville, Ind., and Springfield, Mass., are more than 800 miles apart was seen as an important reason for selecting International Harvester to supplement Springfield Armory's M1 rifle production.

Actually, the selection of a commercial enterprise that had never previously manufactured firearms for the military was not without precedent. During World War II, nine of the 10 prime contractors that manufactured the M1 carbine had never produced firearms before the war (the sole exception was Winchester). As was the case with the carbine manufacturers, plans were formulated for IHC to utilize a number of subcontractors to assist its Garand production program. The serial number ranges assigned to IHC for M1 rifle production were: 4,400,000–4,660,000 and 5,000,501–5,278,245.

In order to augment Springfield Armory's and International Harvester's



There are three known variations of International Harvester hammer drawing numbers. The earliest were "C-5546008 IHC." Mid-production were "IHC C5546008" (above), while the final were "5546008 IHC" along with a single letter-code marking.

M1 rifle production, a contract was also granted to the Harrington & Richardson Arms Co. on April 3, 1952, for the manufacture of 100,000 Garand rifles with additional contracts to follow.

As International Harvester began to gear up for M1 manufacture, the firm was immediately faced with a number of daunting challenges, exacerbated by the fact the company had no prior firearm-making experience. Since the company had expertise in making complex machinery, such as trucks and tractors, it assumed making rifles wouldn't be any different. It is reported that IHC's management planned to make the Garand rifles using standard machine tools already on hand rather than acquire specialized firearm-making machinery and to begin delivering rifles by Christmas 1952. The firm soon found this was impractical. A large number

of unexpected problems arose, which caused a lot of consternation and resulted in a significant delay in starting rifle production.

Other than the receiver, one of the most challenging M1 components to manufacture was the barrel, and production was subcontracted to the Line Material Corp. The Milwaukee-based firm was an established maker of various equipment used in the transmission of electrical and telephone lines and had a well-regarded engineering and manufacturing team. In addition to making barrels for use by International Harvester, Line Material also supplied a large number of M1 rifle barrels to various ordnance depots for use in rebuilding Garands. It was soon widely acknowledged that the company's barrels were of the highest quality. Line Material increased its capacity by adding a second shift to meet the demand for

Receiver heel markings on IHC-produced M1 Garand rifles varied in the format of their stamped lettering, ranging from (l. to r.): the "Arrowhead" style, to the "Postage Stamp" style, to the "Gap Letter" style, in the latter case an earlier example.



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IHC GARANDS

barrels for rebuilds and to supply IHC's fledgling Garand production program. It is reported that Line Material sent some barrels directly to ordnance units in Korea for use in overhauling M1 rifles in theater.

The barrels were marked "LMR" on the right side and were stamped with the drawing number ("D653448"), month and year of production, heat lot identification, "P" (proof) and "M" (magnetic particle inspection). Except for very early examples, the barrels made under subcontract for International Harvester can be identified by a punch mark between the "LMR" and the drawing number.

The high quality of the LMR barrels and their availability were among the few things to go smoothly with International Harvester's M1 rifle production program. As IHC's production problems became apparent, Springfield Armory dispatched John Garand's chief tool and die maker, John Stimson, to Indiana to assist the company in setting up its production line. Once production was underway, a plethora of functioning glitches arose, including a serious jamming problem that completely shut down the assembly line for three months until the cause could be discovered and a remedy devised. The company received assistance from both Springfield Armory and H&R (which was concurrently manufacturing

M1 rifles by that time). Harrington & Richardson engineers eventually determined that the jamming problem was due to incorrect specifications for spring-tension settings. Other problems cropped up and were solved one by one, but IHC was never able to meet its contractual production schedule.

In order to help International Harvester get into Garand production as expeditiously as possible, a number of parts were procured from other sources. Interestingly, one of those parts was the most basic component of the rifle—the receiver. In addition to receivers actually made in house by IHC, the company utilized receivers made by Springfield Armory and H&R. There were four distinct variations of M1 receivers manufactured by Springfield for International Harvester.

SA/IHC "Arrowhead" Receivers

The first receivers made by Springfield Armory for International Harvester were in the approximate 4,440,000-4,441,100 serial number range and, for the most part, were consecutively numbered. Although marked "International Harvester," the logo markings on the receiver were applied by Springfield Armory, and serial numbers were stamped at the IHC plant. Most of these receivers were fitted with LMR barrels, although a few were fitted with Springfield

Armory-made barrels. Collectors have dubbed this variant SA/IHC receiver as the "Arrowhead" due to the layout of the nomenclature markings which, with a bit of imagination, resemble an arrowhead with a broken tip.

SA/IHC "Postage Stamp" Receivers

Soon after rifles with the SA/IHC "Arrowhead" receivers started to be assembled, the previously mentioned problem with function-firing difficulties surfaced. Once the problem was identified and solved, IHC began using unfinished Springfield Armory receivers that were on hand. Rather



The drawing numbers of major parts on International-produced Garands typically include the "IHC" denotation. Examples include (r., top to bottom): the operating rod, bolt and receiver. Harrington & Richardson made M1 Garand receivers of its own (below l.) as well as supplying them to IHC (below, r.).





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MOIST SNUFF

IHC GARANDS

than stamping the receiver logo markings with "arrowhead" format, IHC chose to stamp them with a format consisting of four even lines. This variant is known as the "Postage Stamp" SA/IHC receiver. Like the "Arrowhead" receivers, these were stamped with the Springfield Armory drawing number ("D 652891"), revision numbers ("42" or "43"), and heat lot numbers indicating production by Springfield. Most of the rifles were assembled with LMR barrels (typically dated late 1952 or early 1953), but it is believed some Springfield Armory barrels (dated early 1953) were utilized as well.

SA/IHC 4.6 Million "Gap Letter" Receivers

The next variation of M1 rifle receiver supplied to International Harvester by Springfield was the so-called "Gap Letter" type in recognition of the noticeable space between the centers of the first two lines of the nomenclature logo. The reason for this change in the format of the nomenclature is not known.

SA/IHC 5 Million "Gap Letter" Receivers

The final variant of receiver made by Springfield Armory and supplied to International Harvester was the "Gap Letter" variety serially numbered in the assigned range 5,198,034 to 5,213,034, representing about 15,000 numbers. These receivers were



acquired from SA by IHC to complete its production commitments.

HRA/IHC Receivers

To its credit, Harrington & Richardson did a great deal to assist International Harvester throughout the latter entity's M1 production program. As IHC was winding down rifle manufacture, the company needed additional receivers to complete its production commitments. To this end, a relatively small quantity of M1 receivers (approximately 4,000) was supplied to IHC by H&R. Those receivers fall into the

approximate 5,213,034 to 5,217,065 serial number range. Interestingly, the logo nomenclature on them was apparently stamped by International Harvester ("Postage Stamp" profile) while the serial number and the drawing number on the receiver leg were applied by HRA.

Following is a summary of the type and quantity of M1 receivers manufactured for International Harvester by Springfield Armory and Harrington & Richardson:

SA/IHC "ARROWHEAD"
4,440,000–4,441,100 . . . 1,100

SA/IHC "POSTAGE STAMP"
4,441,000–4,445,600 . . 800–900

SA/IHC "GAP LETTER" 4.6 M
4,638,000–4,660,000 . . 22,000

SA/IHC "GAP LETTER" 5M
5,198,034–5,211,600 . . . 13,243

HRA/IHC
5,213,034–5,217,065 . . . 4,000

continued on p. 96



IHC contracted with other manufacturers to complete its rifles. Examples include the "LMR"-marked barrel made by Line Material Corp (top) along with other components such as the "DRC"-marked windage knob and "NHC"-marked gas plug (above). IHC front sights, although unmarked, measure wider across their protective ears than do those of other makers' rifles.



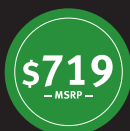
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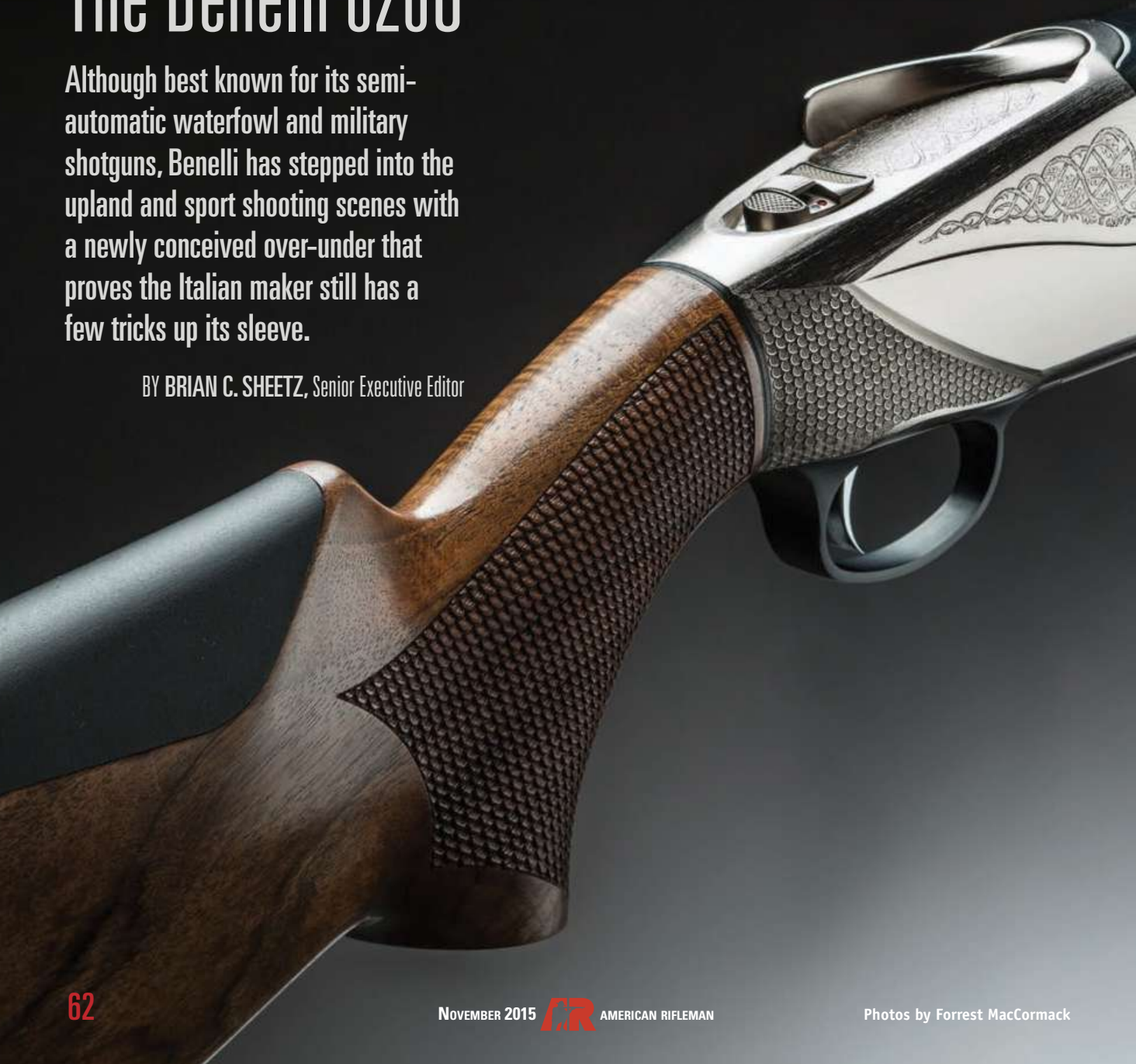
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BREAKING WITH TRADITION

The Benelli 828U

Although best known for its semi-automatic waterfowl and military shotguns, Benelli has stepped into the upland and sport shooting scenes with a newly conceived over-under that proves the Italian maker still has a few tricks up its sleeve.

BY BRIAN C. SHEETZ, Senior Executive Editor





Benelli Armi SpA of Urbino, Italy, is a relative newcomer to the gun business, having emerged in 1967 from its parent motorcycle manufacturing concern with an idea for a new type of shotgun action. The company promoted the design as Inertia Drive—a form of delayed-blowback operation—but, in a twist of literary serendipity, the “ID” label came to be synonymous with its corporate identity. In fact, Benelli became so well-known for its semi-automatic shotguns that it found itself a bit typecast.

Culminating in the 1993 introduction of the Super Black Eagle, one of the first semi-automatics capable of firing 2¾", 3" and 3½" shells, the Inertia Drive system proved reliable to a fault throughout two-and-a-half decades of

service in a series of models. Along the way, it earned the respect of a new generation of hardcore duck and goose hunters beset by the same kind of weather and environmental conditions that had caused their fathers to rely on pump guns.

Recently, in a move unexpected by nearly everyone, Benelli created an all-new, lightweight over-under—the 828U—and, with it, an opportunity to capitalize on its reputation among brand loyalists, waterfowlers and shotgunners in general. The 828U represents a true breakthrough in over-under shotgun design, and Benelli hopes it will also help the company breakthrough with a whole new group of upland and recreational sport shooters.

AN OVER-UNDER ... FROM BENELLI?

There had been no hint that Benelli might venture into more traditional forms such as break-actions. After all, its corporate parent since 2000, Beretta, had been in the gun business 441 years longer and, during that time, had managed to turn out more than a few fine side-by-sides and over-unders. But around 2012, Benelli engineers, spurred by the belief that they could contribute something new to traditional shotgunning, quietly began work on an over-under that would be engineered like none before it.

A few media representatives were let in on the then-secret project during a mid-year 2013 trip to Italy, where they were asked to contribute ideas about what a new and different Benelli should be. One was NRA Publications Editorial Director John Zent, an experienced upland hunter and clays shot. He said company engineers were reserved, not letting on that the gun they were working on was an over-under. But their final question was telling: "What is the proper balance between tradition and innovation?" The group's consensus advice, he said, was that Benelli must stay true to character. Technical innovation must drive it, and function and durability must trump styling, but, ultimately, the styling must be distinctive.

In 2014, early production samples were unveiled during an upland hunt at Brown's Hunting Ranch near the town of Gettysburg in the pheasant-rich game fields of South Dakota. Hosts Mark and Robin Braaten's comfortable lodge provided an ideal setting in which I was able to discuss the gun's design with the Urbino-based engineer who spearheaded it: Marco Vignaroli. Through a thick Italian accent, the Benelli technical director and 20-year company veteran enthusiastically explained the ins and outs of the 828U's development, but it wasn't long into that conversation that I realized the 828U would require little translation to resonate with certain American shooters.

"We had plenty of semi-automatics, so we wanted to go in a complementary sector by adding a product that would

match the needs of other Benelli customers," said Vignaroli. "Plus, there are some markets not open to semi-automatics, such as Australia, that we wanted to enter—to expand and add an additional horse to the team." He said the gun was initially conceived as being less for competitive clays shooters and more for general sporting and hunting customers. As the project progressed, he said, "it moved even more toward a hunting gun," but he added that, "the way it was conceived in terms of separate assemblies"—the stock, the barrels, the trigger—made it a platform that, in time, "might be easily expanded to other sectors."

Vignaroli said the 828U, which was in development for three years and was granted three patents and a revision on a fourth, was the result of every one of the Urbino factory's 270 workers. "Consider that we started from white paper. So especially the beginning was really tough for us—understanding the over-under and its habits and the way the gun moved."

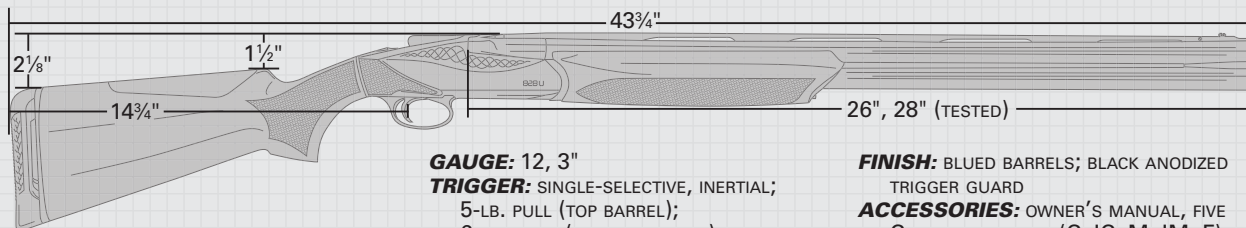
HOW DIFFERENT IS IT?

Described dispassionately, the 828U is simply a wood-stocked over-under shotgun built around an aluminum receiver. It features a single, selective inertia trigger system with a tang-mounted barrel selector/safety button. A plain top lever lies just ahead of the safety along the left side. Current offerings are in 12 gauge with 3" chambers and 26" or 28" barrels. Two versions are available: one with a black anodized receiver and one with a silver-tone receiver said to be the result of a nickel-based treatment. The latter has laser-cut panels of "fish scale" checkering at its lower rear corners along with floral scroll engraving designs in panels on the top, sides and bottom. Both receivers are sculpted to evoke the wings of a mallard in flight. The stocks exhibit figure and also have fish scale checkering in panels on the fore-end and pistol grip. The cryogenically treated barrels, which are highly polished and blued, do not have side ribs, leaving a gap of approximately 5/16" between them starting 3 7/8" in front of their join at the monobloc to a point 2 1/4" from the muzzle. A



SPECS

IMPORTER: BENELLI USA CORP. (DEPT. AR), 17603 INDIAN HEAD HIGHWAY, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607; (301) 283-6981; BENELLIUSA.COM



MANUFACTURER: BENELLI ARMI SPA, URBINO, ITALY
ACTION TYPE: LOCK PLATE OVER-UNDER SHOTGUN
RECEIVER: ANODIZED ALUMINUM ALLOY

GAUGE: 12, 3"
TRIGGER: SINGLE-SELECTIVE, INERTIAL;
 5-LB. PULL (TOP BARREL);
 6-LB. PULL, (BOTTOM BARREL)
BARREL: CARBON STEEL; SCREW-IN CHOKES
SIGHTS: 0.280" CARBON FIBER VENTILATED RIB, 0.078" RED FIBER-OPTIC BEAD
STOCK: WALNUT
WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 7 OZS. (26" BARRELS) TO 6 LBS., 9 OZS (28" BARRELS)

FINISH: BLUED BARRELS; BLACK ANODIZED TRIGGER GUARD
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, FIVE CRIO CHOKE TUBES (C, IC, M, IM, F); CHOKE TUBE WRENCH/THREAD CHASER; SHIM KIT; TRIGGER GROUP REMOVAL TOOL; LOCK AND CASE
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replaceable, solid carbon-fiber vented sighting rib measuring 0.280" wide is topped with an 0.078" red fiber-optic pipe set about 1" back from the muzzle.

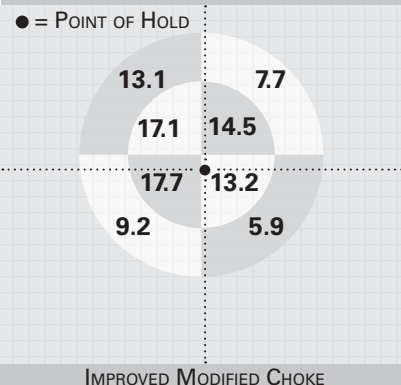
While the aforementioned is readily apparent by examining the gun's exterior, it is inside that the Benelli departs from, or, more properly, defies convention. Until now, over-unders have been the province of traditional gunmaking, in which the various mechanical functions were interrelated by mechanisms that had to be finished by hand to ensure reliability. In addition, such guns were usually made with steel receivers that bore the stresses of firing, meaning that their bolt-ing and hinge mechanisms had to be made to account for wear that occurs after repeated use. The 828U differs in a couple of important respects. According to Vignaroli, "The modularity of the design means that the function of the various subassemblies is almost independent." He added that, "Wherever it is needed is strong material; wherever it is not needed is light material." For instance, the aluminum receiver is unstressed, and departs even from other aluminum-receiver shotguns in the sense that its hinge and locking components do not directly bear the brunt of firing stresses. Rather, pressures are contained by way of a 1 1/4" wide by 2 3/16" high by 15/16" steel breech block. It is held just forward of the receiver's face by two small springs when the action is open, and, as the gun closes, a lug in the monobloc under the lower barrel engages a recess at the block's bottom, and a groove on the monobloc's upper end engages a lip at the block's top, locking the two together and pressing the block reward against the receiver's face. The design provides steel-on-steel lockup that fully contains the forces of firing. The breech block also contains the spring-loaded firing pins, making them easily replaceable should the need arise. A point of potential mechanical wear, the hinge pins, while relatively small in diameter, are made of steel and serve only to pivot



For a gun with some familiar features, such as a walnut buttstock and fore-end, the 828U also has quite a few unexpected innovations. They include (L.): a shim kit that offers 40 different combinations of cast and drop adjustment; the Progressive Comfort recoil-mitigation module that resides within the buttstock; and interchangeable cheek-pieces that can be swapped out to provide proper stock-to-face fit.

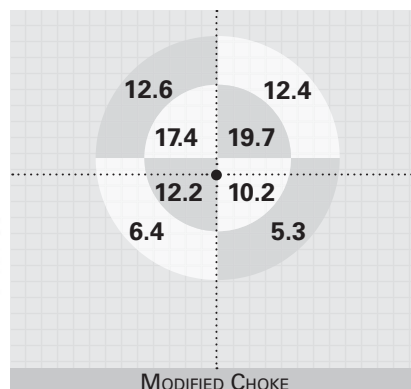
SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YDS.)

REMINGTON HEAVY GAME LOAD
 12-GA., 2 3/4", 1 1/4-OZS. No. 4
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 175
 MEASURED VELOCITY @ 5 FT.: 1270 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



TOP BARREL

21" INNER CIRCLE: 63 (36%)
30" OUTER RING: 36 (21%)
TOTAL HITS: 98 (57%)



BOTTOM BARREL

21" INNER CIRCLE: 60 (34%)
30" OUTER RING: 37 (21%)
TOTAL HITS: 96 (55%)

The 828U exhibited good pattern density—likely due to the design and cryogenic treatment of its bore and chokes.

the monobloc on the receiver. The construction of the barrel assembly is fairly unconventional. Each barrel is soldered to protrusions machined over the one-piece, heat-treated monobloc. The chambers are then machined directly into the monobloc to ensure precise chamber alignment and finish. The nearly seamless union is not adorned on its exterior as in many traditional guns. The fore-end iron attaches in such a way that the fore-end itself is nothing more than a cosmetic cover. It is released by pressing a button at its front.

Further isolating the fore-end and barrels from the receiver are what Benelli refers to as “impulse activated” ejectors. A transverse passage in each chamber contains a floating pin that is “bumped” a few thousandths of an inch to actuate sears on the ejector body on either side of the monobloc, causing the extractors to forcefully throw empty hulls free of the gun. Of course, if a barrel does not fire, the plate remains in its extractor-only position, and separate rods gently press back the extractors, allowing manual removal of that unfired shell. At this point, it’s worth noting that the 828U was designed for easy access to its breech. Both inserting and withdrawing shells and spent hulls, even with a gloved hand, is noticeably less difficult than with many other over-unders and a real boon in the field when reloading.

Reinforcing the theme of mechanical modularity is a self-contained trigger module that can be removed from the receiver with an included tool. It consists of a cast steel fire control housing pinned to an aluminum trigger guard. A lip at the guard’s front engages a groove in front of the receiver well, and a spring-loaded plunger at the housing’s rear locks the unit in place. An included tool allows easy removal of the module from the gun. A U-shaped spring steel wire clip attached to the cocking plate automatically activates the safety when the gun is broken open, but can be removed by the user to deactivate that feature.

SO, HOW DOES IT HANDLE?

Perhaps more than any other type of firearm platform, a shotgun is designed to function as an extension of the shooter’s body. Fit and comfort in the hands and to the body of the user are of critical importance to ensuring success on small, fast-moving targets. Vignaroli used the term

Barrels are soldered to a monobloc that is machined to accept sears that are set to either extract shells or, if activated by the impulse of the shell’s expanding hull, forcefully eject them from the gun. Note the texture in the solid carbon-fiber rib and the recesses for the barrel locking pins that keep the action closed.

Key to the 828U’s operation is a steel breech block that engages corresponding surfaces on the monobloc as the action is closed, containing the firing forces. Two small springs (arrow) hold the block away from the receiver’s face when the action is open so that it is positioned to interlock with the monobloc as the action hinges shut. The block also contains spring-retracted firing pins that are impacted by strikers during firing.



“global comfort” to describe the 828U’s combination of weight, balance and ergonomics. The 828U is a lightweight gun—important for a long session of upland hunting in which it is likely to be carried much more of the time than it is shot—but it is the distribution of the weight that is key. The 828U does not disappoint in that regard, balancing well directly at the hinge point. That makes bringing it to the target nearly effortless. Citing the gun’s operation as part of the global comfort theme, Vignaroli said the 828U’s unique breeching system eliminates the need for a close-tolerance fit at the locking catch, making the gun easy to open. And that brings up another major point in describing how the 828U is different from traditional over-unders. There are no cocking rods. Rather, the gun’s strikers are cocked by operating the top-mounted opening lever. Pressing it fully through its arc first withdraws two barrel locking pins from their recesses in the monobloc then rotates a lever fitted with a roller within the receiver that presses back a cocking plate in the trigger module to load the striker springs. “So we had to pay particular attention to the right angle and the right ergonomics of this lever through its geometry,” Vignaroli said. An added benefit of the lever’s graceful design is that the shooting-hand thumb can rest naturally alongside it atop the receiver.

As to the stock, Vignaroli said, “The grip shape and wrist have been developed through studies of different hands and gloves to ensure a better fit and better approach to the trigger.” A replaceable polymer cheekpiece allows for changes in comb height, and the Progressive Comfort recoil-mitigation system inside the buttstock—a series of interlocking polymer tines that flex to soften the gun’s movement into the shooter’s shoulder—is capped with a soft rubber recoil pad radiused at the heel to encourage snag-free mounting of the gun. Phillips-head screws hold the pad in place, which, once removed, allows access to the Progressive Comfort module. Removing two more screws frees it for access to a nut on a stock bolt that fixes one of two metal drop plates. In combination with five drop shims and four cast shims, each of which fits between the receiver and buttstock, a few minutes of tinkering can result in 40 different combinations of stock adjustment.

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A Pair of Les



As might be expected, Les Baer's Hemi 572 and Monolith Stinger Heavyweight are accurate and reliable. But they also represent the highest levels of M1911 craftsmanship—wherein the details make all the difference.

BY JIM WILSON, Field Editor

After 25 years of writing articles for gun magazines, I have to admit that I still get excited when new M1911s show up at my door for testing. And that is especially true when those M1911s come from high-end makers. Lately, I have been shooting and enjoying two Les Baer guns, the Hemi 572 and the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight.

I am often asked, with the plethora of current M1911 pistols available on the market today, why someone would be justified in spending more than \$2,000 for a gun such as these from Les Baer Custom. The answer to that is, I believe, two-fold. To begin with, a truly custom pistol is built from only the finest materials. Parts that are made properly are less likely to break under the stress of years of hard service. In addition, they will not suffer malfunction-causing wear anywhere near as rapidly as the cheaper parts used in less expensive pistols. So, parts properly made from quality materials is part of the answer.

Baer M1911s



LES BAER

The second part of the answer has to do with how those parts are fitted. In the M1911 pistol, a key factor in accuracy and reliability has to do with how the frame rails, slide rails, barrel and barrel bushing mate with each other. When these parts are fitted quickly and cheaply, it tends to result in a loose fit that allows the parts to batter each other during recoil. The more battering these parts incur, the more quickly they wear out, resulting in declining reliability and accuracy. Custom-level firearms, hand fit by a skilled gunsmith, possess parts with tight interfaces that function reliably and accurately.



A full-size M1911 with a 5" barrel, the Les Baer Hemi 572 features forward cocking serrations, a green fiber-optic front sight and black VZ Recon stocks.

Now some of you may not know that Les Baer is just as crazy about muscle cars as he is about quality firearms. And one of his favorites—and an honored part of his car collection—is the 1970 Chrysler Hemi Cuda. So it is really not surprising that he has named one of his “muscle” pistols the Hemi 572.

The Les Baer Hemi 572 is a full-size M1911 with a 5" barrel. The steel frame and slide are hard-chromed, while various small parts have a black DuPont S coating. The pistol's slide features a fully adjustable rear target sight, a green fiber-optic front sight and forward cocking serrations.

The frame has bilateral safeties and an adjustable target trigger. The pistol's frontstrap is textured in 20-line-per-inch (l.p.i.) checkering, as is the mainspring housing. The frame is topped off with black VZ Recon stocks. The Hemi 572 comes with two eight-round magazines.

The second Les Baer M1911 is a new variation of the popular Stinger pistol, called the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight. Built in stainless steel, this pistol has an officer-size frame mated to a Comanche slide and 4¼" barrel. Sights are the Rolo night sights with a fully adjustable rear and a post front dovetailed into the slide, with tritium inserts front and rear.

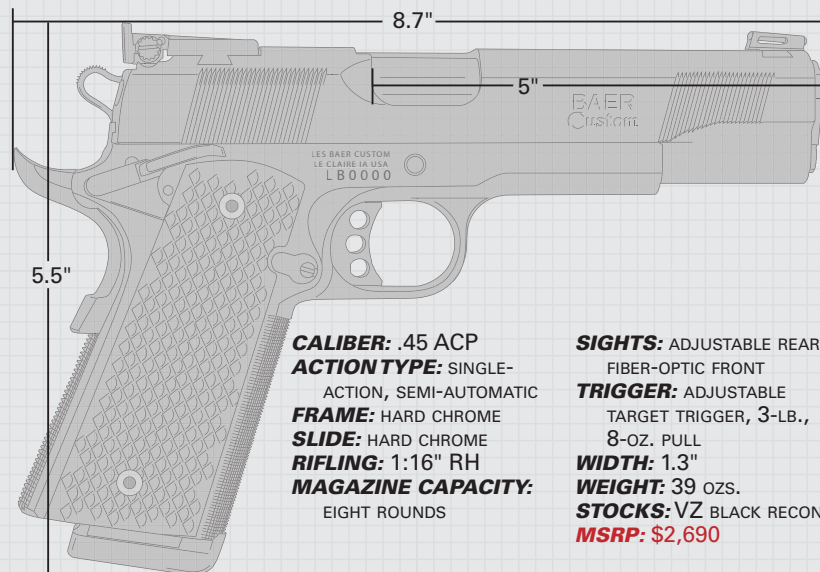
The Monolith Stinger Heavyweight's frame features a long dust cover that extends to the front of the pistol, with the intention of adding a little more weight to the muzzle of the gun.

The frontstrap has 20-l.p.i. checkering, while the mainspring housing has vertical grooves.

Bilateral safeties and an adjustable target

SPECS: LES BAER HEMI 572

MANUFACTURER: LES BAER CUSTOM (DEPT. AR), 1804 IOWA DRIVE, LECLAIRE, IA 52753; (563) 289-2126; LESBAER.COM



CALIBER: .45 ACP
ACTION TYPE: SINGLE-ACTION, SEMI-AUTOMATIC
FRAME: HARD CHROME
SLIDE: HARD CHROME
RIFLING: 1:16" RH
MAGAZINE CAPACITY: EIGHT ROUNDS

SIGHTS: ADJUSTABLE REAR, FIBER-OPTIC FRONT
TRIGGER: ADJUSTABLE TARGET TRIGGER, 3-LB., 8-OZ. PULL
WIDTH: 1.3"
WEIGHT: 39 OZS.
STOCKS: VZ BLACK RECON
MSRP: \$2,690



trigger are also part of this package, while the stocks are an attractive checkered wood. The Monolith Stinger Heavyweight comes with three, seven-round magazines.

Attractive guns are nice only if they shoot well, however, so with that in mind, I gathered up three different .45 ACP loads that had proven very reliable in other M1911 pistols. They were a 230-gr. JHP load from Winchester, a 230-gr. +P JHP load from Black Hills and a 165-gr. Guard Dog from Federal. To test the accuracy of both guns, I shot them from a sandbag rest at 25 yds.

In the 5"-barreled Hemi 572, the highest velocity was obtained with the 165-gr. Federal Guard Dog cartridge, averaging 971 f.p.s. The most accurate load turned out to be the 230-gr. Black Hills cartridges, which averaged 1.68". It should be pointed out, though, that all three brands of test ammunition gave impressive accuracy, hovering around the 2" mark. Most importantly, no jams or malfunctions were experienced during my shooting of the Hemi 572.

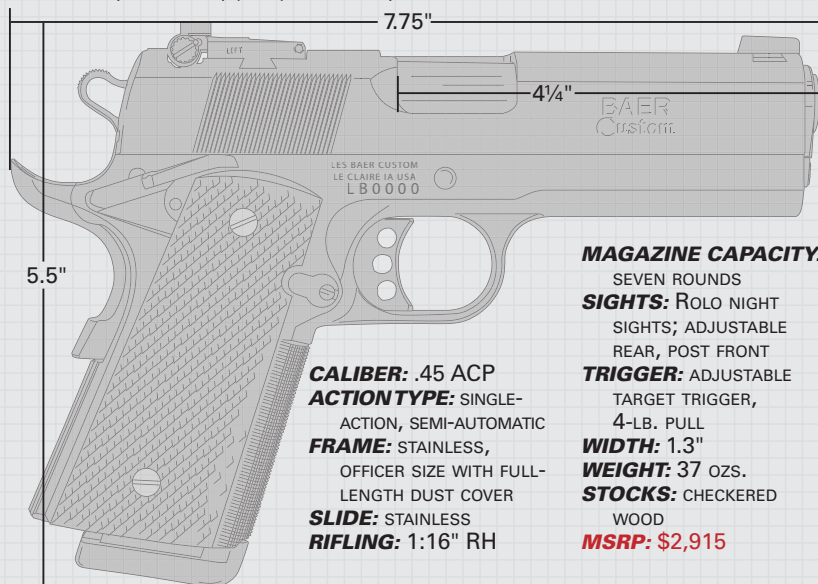
The Les Baer Monolith Stinger Heavyweight showed the same preference for ammunition, although the margin between the three was quite small. Not surprisingly, the highest velocity achieved was 944 f.p.s. from the Federal Guard Dog loading with its lighter-weight bullet. And, again, the best accuracy was obtained with the Black Hills +P load (2.18" average). Only a quarter of an inch separated all three test cartridges.

When shooting over sandbags, I really did not notice any value in having a full-length dust cover as found on the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight. However, once I set up some silhouette targets and started doing some speed shooting, the benefit became apparent. I happen to like a slightly muzzle-heavy pistol and find that it helps reduce muzzle flip just a bit, allowing me to get back on target just that much quicker. Like the Hemi 572, the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight exhibited no jams or malfunctions.



SPECS: LES BAER MONOLITH STINGER HEAVYWEIGHT

MANUFACTURER: LES BAER CUSTOM (DEPT. AR), 1804 IOWA DRIVE, LECLAIRE, IA 52753; (563) 289-2126; LESBAER.COM



MAGAZINE CAPACITY:

SEVEN ROUNDS

SIGHTS: ROLO NIGHT SIGHTS; ADJUSTABLE REAR, POST FRONT

TRIGGER: ADJUSTABLE TARGET TRIGGER, 4-LB. PULL

WIDTH: 1.3"

WEIGHT: 37 OZS.

STOCKS: CHECKERED WOOD

MSRP: \$2,915

CALIBER: .45 ACP
ACTION TYPE: SINGLE-ACTION, SEMI-AUTOMATIC
FRAME: STAINLESS, OFFICER SIZE WITH FULL-LENGTH DUST COVER
SLIDE: STAINLESS
RIFLING: 1:16" RH

LES BAER

The Hemi 572 worked well in speed drills, too. I found the green fiber-optic front sight very quick to acquire for repeat shots. Especially on a defensive handgun, the fiber-optic front sights make a lot of sense because the bright color can be picked up so quickly. The downside to a fiber-optic front sight is that some are somewhat fragile and the fiber-optic pipe can become damaged or dislodged. This did not occur when I was testing the Les Baer gun, and my hope is that they have found a way to make the optic pipe more secure.

One minor problem that I ran into while testing these guns was that the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight was an extremely tight fit in several of my defensive holsters. I am sure that this is due to the extra steel and different shape of the pistol's dust cover. This is really no big deal unless the user chooses to carry the gun defensively without first ensuring that his holster will properly accommodate the pistol. Running through a few pistol presentations in the home, during dry-fire practice sessions, will help smooth things up and allow a proper draw stroke.

I especially liked the bilateral safeties on these Les Baer pistols. They are of the type originally designed by California pistol-smith Armand Swenson years ago. The right-side safety lever incorporates a toe that integrates with a slot in the right stock panel. I have found it to be a secure arrangement that seems to always function reliably.

I have a relatively small hand, and often have trouble activating the grip safety when shooting with my thumb on top of the safety lever. This is often even the case when the pistol being shot has a beavertail grip safety, with the so-called Speed Bump, as do these Les Baer M1911s. The reason is that the grip safeties are not always properly adjusted. A person with larger, beefier hands can generally overcome this poor adjustment while the rest of us may suffer.

I did not find this to be a problem when shooting the Hemi 572 or the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight. The grip safeties on both guns had been properly adjusted, and I was able to use the high hold, with my thumb riding on the grip safety, throughout my tests.

As in other high-end M1911-type pistols, Les Baer's parts are not only fitted to very tight tolerances, but special attention is given to make sure that they interact with each other as smoothly as possible. In this manner, acceptable reliability and accuracy are maintained for years, through thousands of rounds of ammunition.

I recall a number of years ago taking the first Les Baer M1911 that I ever received for testing to the range

SHOOTING RESULTS: LES BAER HEMI 572, 5" BARREL (25 YDS.)

.45 ACP CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 5' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 230-GR. +P JHP	877 Avg. 10 Sd	393	1.25	2.20	1.68
FEDERAL 165-GR. GUARD DOG	970 Avg. 17 Sd	345	1.87	2.50	2.08
WINCHESTER 230-GR. JHP	770 Avg. 9 Sd	303	1.49	2.45	1.88
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.88

NOTES: AVERAGE VELOCITY WAS OBTAINED BY FIRING FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS OVER A PACT CHRONOGRAPH AT 5 FT. ACCURACY WAS DETERMINED BY FIRING FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 86° F. HUMIDITY: 25%. ABBREVIATIONS: JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT).

SHOOTING RESULTS: LES BAER MONOLITH STINGER, 4¼" BARREL (25 YDS.)

.45 ACP CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 5' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 230-GR. +P JHP	855 Avg. 6 Sd	373	1.75	2.55	2.18
FEDERAL 165-GR. GUARD DOG	944 Avg. 4 Sd	326	1.66	2.85	2.44
WINCHESTER 230-GR. JHP	744 Avg. 6 Sd	283	1.83	2.75	2.38
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.33

NOTES: AVERAGE VELOCITY WAS OBTAINED BY FIRING FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS OVER A PACT CHRONOGRAPH AT 5 FT. ACCURACY WAS DETERMINED BY FIRING FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YDS. FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 86° F. HUMIDITY: 25%. ABBREVIATIONS: JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT).

for function firing. When I took it out of the box, I had trouble pulling the slide back; the gun was so tight. One of my shooting buddies declared that the gun was too tight and would undoubtedly result in malfunctions. Well, I should have made him put some money up because I kept that pistol for quite some time, put several thousand rounds through it and never did experience a malfunction.

Starting with quality materials and then properly fitting them is the secret—if you want to call it that—to truly custom M1911s. All of the custom builders who deserve the title know that, and Les Baer is no exception. That is why they cost more, and that is why they are worth more.

The thing about Les Baer that most of his customers have figured out is that he is somewhat of a perfectionist. Nothing is going out the door of his shop unless he is satisfied with how it functions and shoots. He still takes the time to personally function fire most of the firearms that his company produces, and his employees know that the gun had better work as advertised.

Baer has also been building guns for as long as I have been writing about them. And it is refreshing to have a conversation with him about guns and still hear the passion in his voice after all these years. His enthusiasm and demand for excellence are still shared by many in the gun industry today, and it is what has made our industry so great.

Good people and good guns are what keep me shooting and writing after all these years. And the Hemi 572 and the Monolith Stinger Heavyweight from Les Baer Custom are fine examples of that. ★

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Unlike conventional, copper-jacketed, lead-core bullets, PolyCase projectiles are manufactured by way of high-pressure injection molding. The bullets are comprised of a heated mixture of powdered copper and epoxy/polymer resin, and any excess molding material generated during the process is ground up and reused.

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE

An all-new bullet—featuring unique construction and manufactured through injection molding—is poised to make a noticeable impact on the purses and perceptions of shooters across a variety of disciplines.

BY B. GIL HORMAN, Field Editor

THE POLYCASE ARX BULLET

Many of the new products rolling out onto the shooting market each year are variations or improvements of existing designs. But once in a while, something unique arrives. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to travel to Savannah, Ga., and meet with the team at PolyCase Ammunition to learn more about the company's fundamentally new approach to bullet design and manufacturing.

The ARX bullet came about in the pursuit of creating single-use ammunition for national security forces. In many countries, terrorist organizations and cartel members pick up spent brass cartridge cases (the single most difficult ammunition component to obtain) that were left behind by government security forces, and reload them with homemade lead bullets and propellant extracted from fireworks. Starting in 2011, retired Lt. Col. Paul Lemke teamed with Juan Carlos Marin, an engineer from Spain, to develop a nylon-based cartridge case that can be loaded only one time. Thus the company name of PolyCase. The

firm's first success was a .380 ACP cartridge case with a zinc-alloy base and nylon body.

The nylon and polymer materials in these cases, however, do not work reliably with conventional, copper-jacketed, lead-core bullets. So, the team at PolyCase had to devise a projectile containing enough polymer to function reliably in the nylon cases. This led to the development of the Inceptor line of bullets.

Unlike conventional jacketed bullets, which require several steps and a good deal of heavy equipment to shape, Inceptor bullets are made by the high-pressure injection molding of a heated blend of powdered copper and epoxy/polymer resin. After it cools a bit, the mold opens and a cluster of bullets fall onto a conveyor belt to be collected and smoothed before loading. The excess molding material (called sprue) is ground up and reused. Injection molding is fast and efficient, allowing for high production volume with very little waste.



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The result is a lightweight projectile with several desirable qualities. The bullets are lead-free, allowing them to be used in jurisdictions and facilities that restrict or ban the use of lead-based ammunition. The polymer/copper material maintains its integrity as it travels down the barrel and strikes soft targets, but it fractures when it hits hard targets such as steel plates or building materials—greatly reducing the chance of ricochets. After the bullets have been fired, the copper can be reclaimed by heating the bullet fragments to burn off the polymers.

It's a fairly straightforward process to make solid, round-nose bullets using the injection-molding process. However, the polymetallic blend of materials does not lend itself to the production of the hollow-point bullets commonly used for self-defense. The formulation has to be tough enough to survive loading, firing and flight into the target, which means it's too hard to expand on impact. With that in mind, PolyCase went back to the drawing board once more to find a way to manufacture a non-expanding bullet with effective terminal ballistics comparable to a hollow point.

The end result of the company's R&D is the ARX bullet, a patent-pending design that takes full advantage of the flexibility provided by injection molding. PolyCase ballistics engineers—along with third-party aerospace and fluid engineers—spent months experimenting with aero and fluid dynamics using Finite Element Modeling (FEM), which led to the design of uniquely shaped flutes, or channels, the company calls Power Blades. The flutes act to displace the target material using the bullet's forward and rotational momentum, or "lateral force dispersion."

Imagine an outboard boat motor running at full speed with the propeller blade suspended in the air above the surface of a lake. The blade's fast rotation might generate a bit of a breeze but not much else will happen. Now imagine plunging that spinning blade into the lake. It would cause quite a splash as the kinetic energy is dispersed into the water, a much denser medium than air.

The ARX bullet functions in a similar fashion. As the bullet spins through the atmosphere, the flutes do little to disrupt the air it passes through. But as the bullet comes into contact with a fluid medium, such as 10 percent ballistic gelatin, the fluid within the target is suddenly and forcefully churned by its flutes. The fluids are thrust out and away from the bullet at velocities that are anywhere



When fired into bare 10 percent ballistic gelatin, this 114-gr. .45 ACP ARX bullet (bottom, l.) managed to retain its original shape upon impact. However, when the same type of projectile was fired into a Class 2 bullet-resistant vest (top and bottom, r.), the bullet fractured and stopped before it could penetrate the Kevlar plate (top, l.).

from one-and-a-half to two times faster than the velocity the bullet is traveling.

For example, if a 74-gr. 9 mm Luger ARX bullet is traveling 1450 f.p.s., the fluids will move through the flutes and away from the bullet at somewhere between 2175 to 2900 f.p.s. When the ARX bullets are launched at rifle velocities, the effect is amplified. Firing a .45-cal., 140-gr. projectile from a .458 SOCOM cartridge at 2500 f.p.s. generates fluid displacement at velocities ranging from 3750 to 5000 f.p.s. Due to the law of energy conservation, this increase in fluid speed also creates a decrease in pressure (known as the Venturi Effect), which, in turn, increases the effect of cavitation. Thus the terminal effects of the ARX bullet in a fluid medium include the production of a large temporary cavity, a generous permanent cavity and deep penetration without bullet deformation.

As it turns out, PolyCase bullets function reliably in either the company's proprietary polymer cartridge cases or in industry-standard brass cases. Rather than wait until the polymer cases are ready for market, the company opted to introduce the shooting public to its unconventional approach to bullet making by launching the Inceptor lines using traditional reloadable brass cases. As of this writing, Inceptor ammunition is available in round-nose (RNP), defensive (ARX), and tracer (FireFly) configurations for .380 ACP, 9 mm Luger, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP pistols—with more chamberings on the way.

GEL RESULTS

CALIBER	BARRIER	PENETRATION (INCHES)	MAX. CAVITY (INCHES)
.380 ACP	NONE	11.5	2.25
.380 ACP	DENIM & LEATHER	10	1.75
9 MM LUGER	NONE	13	2.75
9 MM LUGER	DENIM & LEATHER	13	2.25
.45 ACP	NONE	17	5.0
.45 ACP	DENIM & LEATHER	16	4.5

Everything I learned at the factory appeared promising, but what I really wanted was to see the ammunition in action. PolyCase obliged by providing the media members in attendance a good deal of trigger time at local indoor and outdoor shooting ranges. At the indoor range, we fired hundreds of rounds through dozens of guns in all of the available pistol calibers along with the .458 SOCOM load through rifles.

Firing the relatively lightweight bullets produced notably reduced levels of felt recoil, especially in pocket-size, concealed-carry pistols. The PolyCase loads ignited without the choking clouds of smoke that accompany some brands of ammunition. Downrange accuracy was on par with other premium defensive handgun loads.

But the number one question with any new type of ammunition is: Will it function reliably? The PolyCase ammunition I fired in a variety of calibers and all tested firearms fed, fired and ejected without any malfunctions. We then did some shooting with sound suppressors. Again, no problems occurred. Lastly, the company broke out a couple of submachine guns for full-automatic fire. That test proved that the Heckler & Koch MP5 select-fire submachine gun had no troubles digesting PolyCase ammunition.

At the outdoor range, we took turns firing single ARX rounds into calibrated 10 percent ballistic gelatin with and without cloth barriers, a Class 2 bullet-resistant vest, and informal targets including water jugs and watermelons.

The ballistic gel results were impressive, demonstrating terminal effects comparable, or superior, to typical hollow-point pistol ammunition. Because the bullet retains its original shape on impact, the ARX is not significantly affected by layers of fabric or intermediate barriers. As a result, it provides deep penetration like other non-expanding bullets. However, when the ARX was fired into a bullet-resistant vest, it fractured and stopped before penetrating the vest's Kevlar plate.

The permanent wound cavities in the gel exhibited an unusual three-pronged



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POLYCASE

shape—as if a spinning blender blade had passed through the block. The bullets continued to penetrate after they stopped spinning, often flipping over so that their flat base was facing forward by the time they came to a stop. In most cases, the only evidence to be found that the bullets recovered from the gel had been fired were the rifling marks.

The terminal effects of the ARX bullet become even more pronounced with greater velocity. Firing a .458 SOCOM cartridge into bare gelatin caused about 10" of the 16" gel block to blow apart. After causing such massive damage, the bullet broke apart inside the gel block with the fragments creating multiple secondary wound channels. In short, rifle-velocity ARX bullets are simply devastating. Shooting into water jugs and melons produced a similar effect. They didn't just split or break open, they exploded.

Since attending the PolyCase writers event, I've had the opportunity to fire more ARX ammunition in additional test guns. It continues to perform flawlessly with respectable accuracy and reduced levels of felt recoil. The company



Photo by Richard Mann

recently introduced a .50 Beowulf ARX load in conjunction with Alexander Arms, and more new cartridges are expected soon, including .38 Spl. and .223 Rem.

The PolyCase ARX bullet is just one of several innovations this new company plans to bring to market. Just as Glock's polymer-frame pistols inspired critics to pontificate at length when they arrived on the U.S. market 30 years ago, I expect some folks will be skeptical about adopting injection-molded bullets for target practice and self-defense. Based on what I've seen so far, the ammunition lives up to the hype. My hope is that the shooting community will give this exciting new bullet design, and the company producing it, a chance to grow. To learn more, visit polycaseammo.com. 

When they come into contact with a fluid medium, the ARX projectile's Power Blades act to displace the target material using the bullet's forward and rotational momentum. The result is a large wound channel and deep penetration with little to no bullet deformation.

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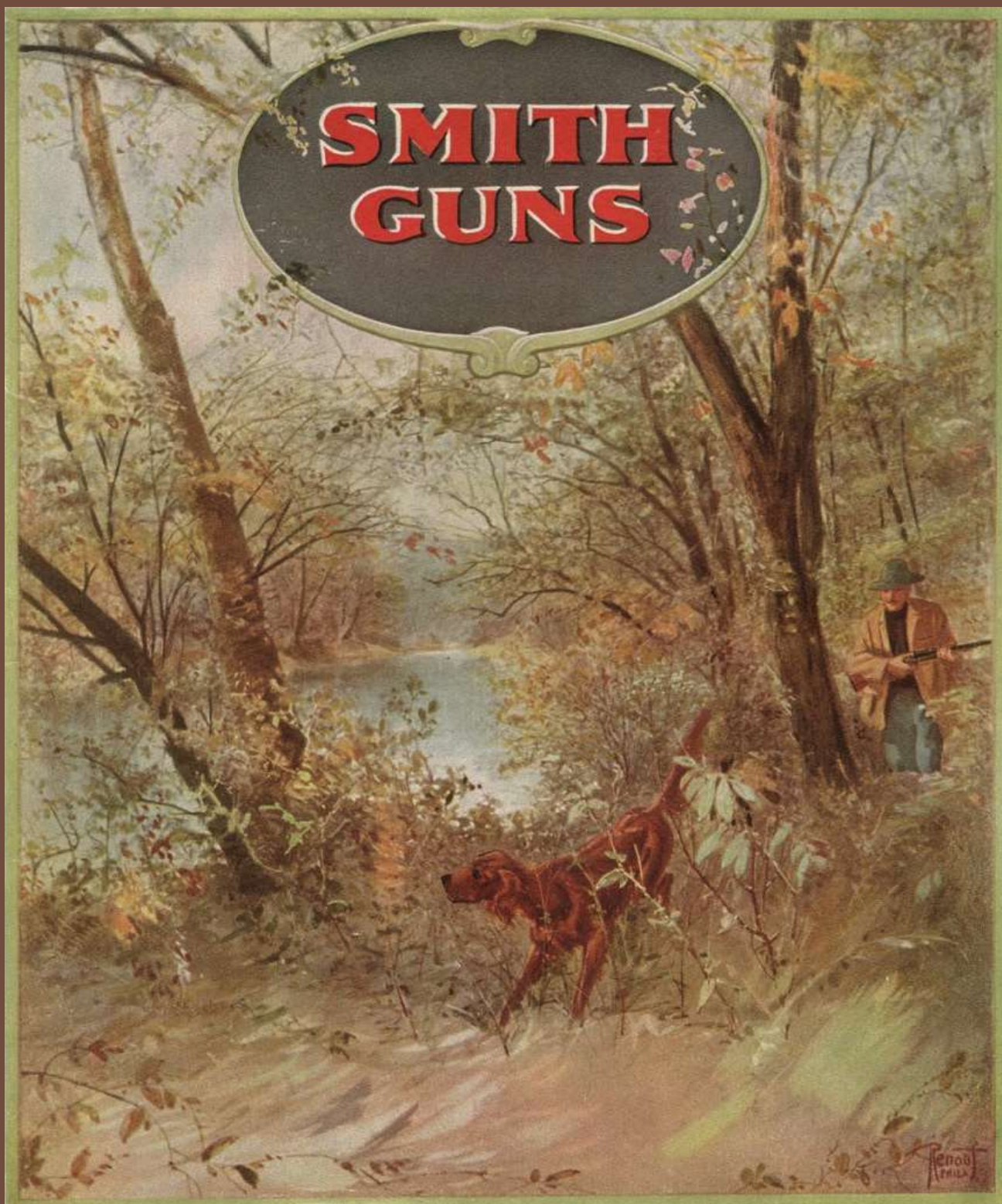
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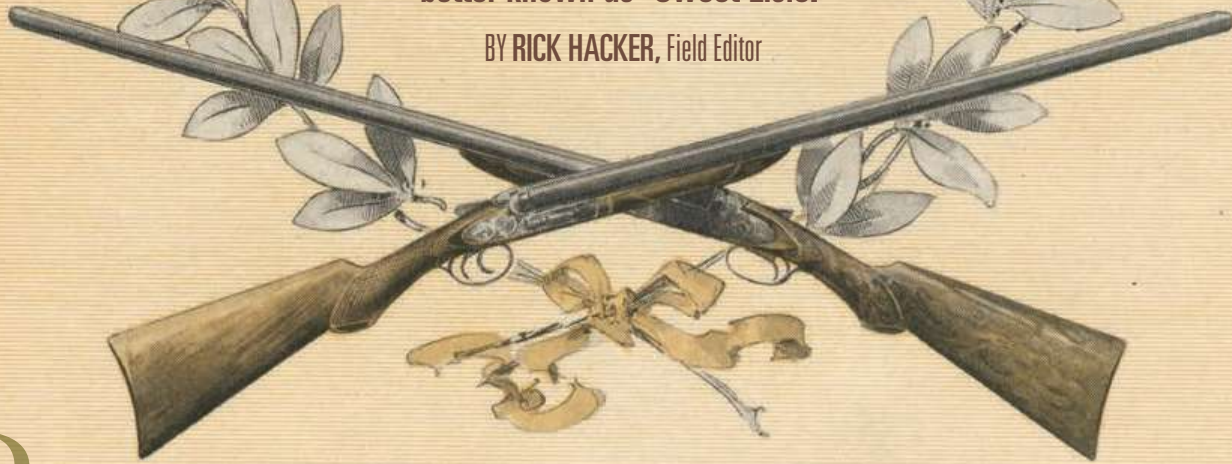


Bucket List

L.C. Smith

In his latest book, the author put together his “bucket list” of guns he intends to own. On it, he included a classic American double, the L.C. Smith, better known as “Sweet Elsie.”

BY RICK HACKER, Field Editor

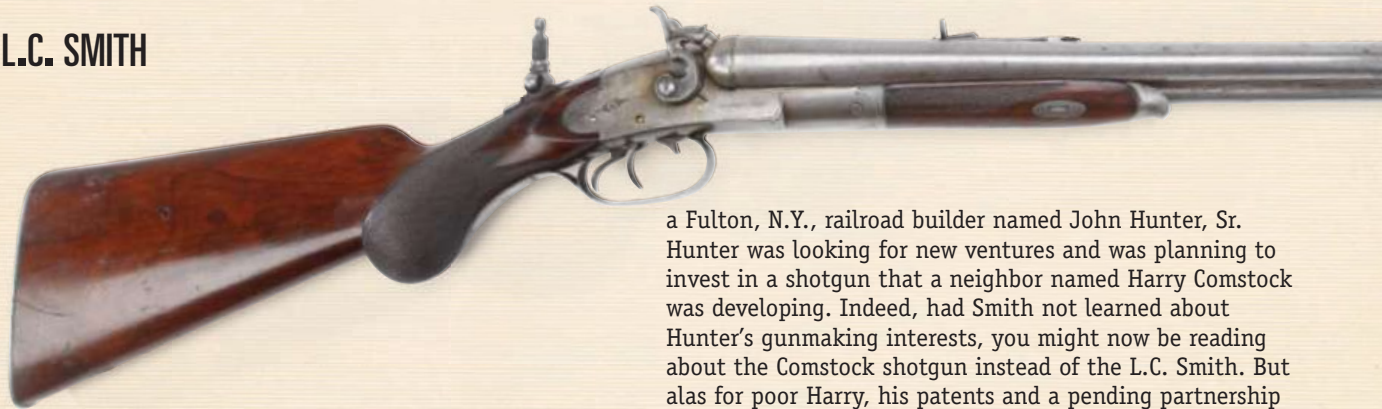


By all accounts, the sidelock double-barreled shotgun belongs to the British. Indeed, “best guns,” from makers such as Purdey and Holland & Holland set the tone for the classic gentleman’s sidelock of the 19th and 20th centuries. Although in America, names such as Parker and Remington were giving the Union Jack a run for its money, the hammerless versions produced by these firms were boxlocks, which became the norm.

Only one firearm manufacturer emerged with the mechanical skills to produce an American hammerless sidelock—an elegant, sturdy shotgun that took the name of its creator—L.C. Smith, or “Sweet Elsie,” as this well-designed side-by-side was affectionately called.

Lyman Cornelius Smith had been in partnership with his brother, Leroy, and a neighbor, W.H. Baker, manufacturing and marketing Baker’s unique three-barreled drilling, which consisted of side-by-side 12- or 10-ga. smoothbores over a .44-40 Win. barrel. But this European-style design was not popular in America, and by 1880, L.C. Smith found himself the sole proprietor of W.H. Baker & Co.

Having married into a prosperous family, money was not a problem for Smith—but success was. Sales were lagging. Fortunately, the entrepreneurial Smith had an inventive employee named Alexander T. Brown (who went on to develop the Dunlop tire and other automotive inventions in later years). Brown designed an exposed-hammer sidelock



double, which involved a sturdy "double cross-locking" rotary bolt, a strengthened barrel hinge and hammer ears that dropped below the shooter's line of sight when cocked. Produced in 10 and 12 gauge, the new "L.C. Smith Hammer Gun" was introduced in 1884 with much fanfare and success.

This greatly improved smoothbore was offered in a number of grades, or "qualities," as the company initially called them—ranging from 2 through 7 (or A to F and AA in subsequent catalogs) and priced from \$55 up to \$450—princely sums in the days of a \$16-a-week average paycheck. For escalating qualities and prices, customers could have progressively better grades of Damascus, and later, fluid steel barrels, more engraving, and better, more finely checkered wood. In 1913 the L.C. Smith grading system changed to reflect names such as Field, Ideal, Olympic, Trap, Specialty, Eagle, Crown, Monogram, Premier and De Luxe. In addition, a 12-ga., single-barreled trap gun was produced between 1917 and World War II.

Clearly the L.C. Smith shotgun was geared toward sportsmen who wanted the best and were willing to pay for it. But while the shotgun attracted well-heeled hunters, it failed to hold L.C. Smith's attention; he had become enthralled with developing a new-fangled device called the typewriter. Thus, in 1888, Smith sold his company to

a Fulton, N.Y., railroad builder named John Hunter, Sr. Hunter was looking for new ventures and was planning to invest in a shotgun that a neighbor named Harry Comstock was developing. Indeed, had Smith not learned about Hunter's gunmaking interests, you might now be reading about the Comstock shotgun instead of the L.C. Smith. But alas for poor Harry, his patents and a pending partnership were scrapped once Hunter met Smith. After all, here was an already-established, quality shotgun, with machinery and workers in place. Consequently, L.C. Smith went on to create what would become the famous Smith-Corona typewriter, and Hunter Arms Co. was established to manufacture the equally famous L.C. Smith shotgun.

It was under the Hunter Arms banner, which flew from 1889 until 1945, that the L.C. Smith legacy was established. After all, this was America's "Golden Age of Shotgunning," and now we had our very own sidelock with which to break records and bag birds. In 1889, the Hunter Arms Co. built a factory in Fulton, N.Y., a location that—under the leadership of John Hunter, Sr., and, over the years, with his six sons—was to become revered in the annals of shotgunning.

The guns were stamped "L.C. Smith" on the lock-plates, while the barrels were marked, "HUNTER ARMS CO.—MAKERS—FULTON, N.Y." In 1891, a 16 gauge was added to the line, and in 1896 a few 8 gauges were produced; however, they were discontinued one year later and are extremely rare. In 1908, the first L.C. Smith 20 gauge made its appearance. Only one 28 gauge was made, serial No. 100, and the .410 bore was introduced in 1926, with a scant 2,665 of these smallbore shotguns known to exist.

In 1892, L.C. Smith became the first U.S.-made shotgun





The first L.C. Smith shotgun was actually a three-barrel drilling (L.) designed by W.H. Baker. Eventually, the hammerless sidelock, such as this Specialty Grade (below) became the L.C. Smith cherished by generations of shooters and hunters.

to feature automatic ejectors, specially featured, in 1895, on its top-of-the-line A3 Automatic Ejector gun. Additionally, in 1904, the company catalog touted its new Hunter One-Trigger, a non-selective system that fired the right barrel first. The Hunter One-Trigger could be ordered in any of three fixed positions, forward, middle of the trigger guard or to the rear. It was extremely fast, yet was guaranteed against doubling. Later, in 1935, a selective, single trigger was offered.

Every L.C. Smith exuded quality, from the “workhorse” blued and casehardened 00 Field Grade to the elaborately engraved and checkered A3 Monogram. Internally, all guns exhibited the same excellent workmanship. Barrels were imported rough-bored, then reamed and polished at the factory. Initially there were varying grades of Damascus, ranging from English Stub Twist to the finest qualities and patterns. Later, only the best steel tubes were used, escalating in quality from Armour Steel on the Field Grade to Nitro and Royal Steel on the higher grades. Each tube was hand-straightened, and the pairs of tubes were brazed together, rather than soldered. All internal parts were mirror-polished and hand-fitted. Higher grades had internal parts damascened, like a fine pocket watch. Stocks were American, English or French walnut, shaped at the factory and hand-rubbed with linseed oil—the higher the grade, the more coats the stock received. The completed guns were then test fired for patterning perfection at the company’s indoor range.

Unfortunately, reoccurring gremlins of financial woes and mismanagement plagued this family-owned operation, and in 1917 the Hunter Arms Co. filed for bankruptcy. But the reins were quickly picked up by a small cadre of Fulton businessmen who didn’t want to lose L.C. Smith, which was the town’s claim to fame. Nonetheless, in 1920 the company was sold to the Simmons family of Massachusetts, who unfortunately, also did a less-than-stellar job of management. On one occasion, Hunter Arms was contracted to make a bolt-action shotgun for Sears, Roebuck & Co., but a miscalculation of costs resulted in financial catastrophe. In 1939, the company was put up for sale, but World War II halted negotiations. After continuing shotgun making for both civilian and government customers, Hunter Arms again went into bankruptcy.

But to its rescue rode the Marlin Firearms Co., which, on Nov. 20, 1945, purchased the assets. The plant was reopened as the L.C. Smith Gun Co.—the first time “Smith” was included as part of the company name. It was a perfect match as Marlin, led by Frank Kenna, was also family-owned. Unfortunately, after only five years, in which a total of 57,929 guns were made, a floor in the factory collapsed, putting L.C. Smith out of business.

In 1967, Frank Kenna, Jr., the new

president of Marlin, resurrected L.C. Smith as a limited-production gun. This time it was made in Marlin’s New Haven, Conn., factory. Only offered in 12 gauge, it differed from the original in that it featured a ventilated rib. But the demands of producing a labor-intensive sidelock, plus competition from imports, and the popularity of pumps and semi-automatics doomed the “Elsie.” A scant 2,539 Marlin-made L.C. Smiths were all that remained of this classic double before production was finally halted in 1971.

Interestingly, Marlin resurrected the L.C. Smith once again, but this time it was in name only. The resulting side-by-side was in reality a boxlock made in Italy, and featured false sideplates to make it look like a sidelock. It was offered in 12 and 20 gauges, and there was an Italian-made L.C. Smith over-and-under as well. Both had false sideplates and were made for Marlin by the well-known firm of Fausti Stefano. They were cataloged from 2005 through 2009.

It is interesting to note that L.C. Smith, the man who gave his name to this legendary American sidelock, was involved in their manufacture only for a brief four-year period. Yet his namesake shotgun continues to endure as both a highly desirable hunting companion and as a collectible, while the typewriter he also invented has long become obsolete. 🐉



50 Famous Firearms You’ve Got To Own

This article is excerpted (with permission) from *50 Famous Firearms You’ve Got To Own*—Rick Hacker’s Bucket List, and it is one of the “Fabulous 50” on Field Editor Hacker’s list of top guns. The new book is a compilation of 50 short articles on different firearms ranging from the Browning Superposed to the Ruger 10/22—as well as the L.C. Smith, of course. It’s a fun book, well-illustrated with photos taken by the author. “I have seen this phenomenon manifest itself whenever a lengthy discussion drifts into the rocky shoals of a topic of extreme personal preference, such as, what is the best single malt Scotch, the best cigar and,

perhaps the most opinionated of them all, the best gun.” Instead of picking just one—and opening himself up to a host of criticism—he chose a half-hundred. Hacker’s first article in the pages of *American Rifleman* was “45-70: Getting Older, Getting Better” in the May 1979 issue, and his latest is on the back page of this magazine. The hardcover, 8½"x11" book is 176 pp., and it is available at bookstores or from Gun Digest Books, gundigeststore.com. Price: \$30.

—MARK A. KEEFE, IV, EDITOR IN CHIEF





Rigby Big Game

The saga of the Rigby Big Game rifle has taken remarkable twists since Aug. 29, 1912, the day Col. Sir Aubrey Woolls Sampson, hero of the Anglo-Boer wars, took delivery of the first of the famed dangerous-game guns. The big .416 Rigby, built on the Mauser Magnum action, was slow to catch on. Only 189 are believed to have been produced through 1940, at which point World War II halted supply of the key component from Germany. When post-war manufacture resumed, relatively few could be produced, so the London gunmaker attempted to modify surplus 98Ks or utilized derivative actions such as the French-made Brevex or the BRNO from Czechoslovakia when they could be obtained.

Help came unexpectedly when American writer Robert Ruark made the Rigby a virtual character in his popular works, *Horn of the Hunter* (1953) and *Something of Value* (1955),

in admiration of the way professional hunter Harry Selby wielded his Rigby during safaris in East Africa. Around campfires worldwide, that spotlight elevated the .416 over other magazine-rifle calibers, accruing acclaim that would pay dividends in future demand.

Rigby remained a London fixture until the 1990s, but then a series of ownership changes, along with a trans-Atlantic legal fight, resulted in competing production in both the U.S. and in England. The turmoil came to an abrupt halt in 2013 with the acquisition of Rigby, and all of its marques and records, by the Swiss/German L&O Group, whose portfolio includes SIG Sauer, Blaser and Mauser. In effect, the clock was turned back a century to when Rigby, as Mauser's exclusive London agent, persuaded the Germans to enlarge their action so that it could compete with big-bore double rifles.

Since the 2013 restoration, orders

for the Big Game have exceeded the entire pre-World War II production. Two models are offered, both single- and double-square-bridge variants. The former—including the sample we received—is made in traditional express rifle mode, lacking provision for scope mount and featuring a folding-leaf rear sight and over-the-top safety. The double-bridge variant is intended for use with optics and accordingly sports a lateral swing safety.

Today's barreled actions from Mauser differ from the originals only in minor respects. Present is the familiar bolt fitted with full-length claw extractor and twin opposing locking lugs, the left one split to straddle a fixed, blade-type ejector. A functional third lug is found on the bolt stem, which locks into a cut in the receiver tang. Further strength comes from internal structure. Both action screws protrude through steel pillars that bear directly on the flat-bottomed receiver, and the integral recoil lug extending beneath the receiver ring engages a rectangular, case-hardened, steel bolster contained within the stock. This rigid, steel-on-steel foundation all but ensures consistent bedding pressure, thus minimizing possible effects on accuracy and feeding caused by overtightened screws and wood shrinkage or swelling.

Today's barrels are hammer-forged, and at 22" are 2" shorter than original issue. They come in a two-step contour, narrowing from 0.952" at the barrel band sling swivel mount to 0.785" at the muzzle. The rear sight

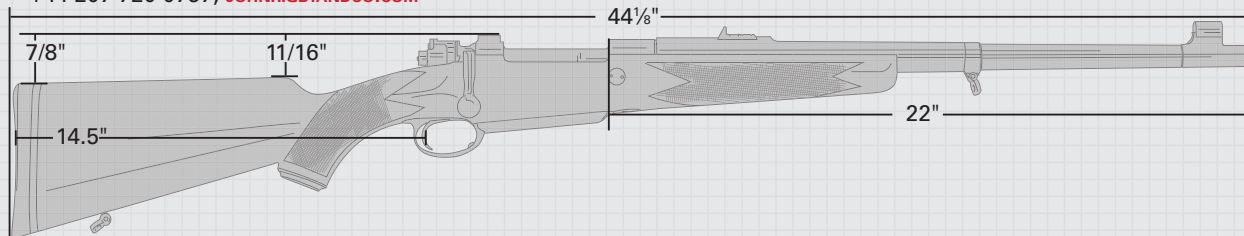
SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YDS.)

.416 RIGBY CARTRIDGE	VEL. @ 15' (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE IN INCHES		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
NOSLER 400-GR. SOLID	2364 Avg. 15 Sd	4,964	1.74	3.84	2.58
NOSLER 400-GR. PARTITION	2344 Avg. 17 Sd	4,881	1.94	3.10	2.72
FEDERAL 400-GR. FUSION	2453 Avg. 8 Sd	5,345	0.94	2.08	1.72
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.34

NOTES: VELOCITY WAS MEASURED WITH AN OEHLER MODEL 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FT. ACCURACY RESULTS BASED ON FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YDS. FIRED USING OPEN SIGHTS FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 75° F. ABBREVIATIONS: Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

SPECS

MANUFACTURER: JOHN RIGBY & Co. (DEPT. AR), 13-19 PENSURY PLACE, LONDON SW8 4TP UNITED KINGDOM;
+44 207 720 0757; JOHNRIGBYANDCO.COM



IMPORTER: BLASER USA (DEPT. AR), 403 EAST RAMSEY, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216;
(210) 377-2527; BLASER-USA.COM

CALIBER: .416 RIGBY (TESTED);
.450 RIGBY

ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION REPEATING,
CENTER-FIRE RIFLE

RECEIVER: SINGLE SQUARE BRIDGE

BARREL: TWO-STEP WITH BARREL BAND;
HAMMER-FORGED

FINISH: PLASMA-NITRIDE

MAGAZINE: HINGED; FOUR-ROUND CAPACITY

RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE, RH TWIST

WEIGHT: 10 LBS., 12 OZS.

SIGHTS: EXPRESS REAR WITH TWO FOLDING
LEAVES; HOODED FRONT BEAD

TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE;
2-LB., 12-OZ. PULL

STOCK: GRADE 5 TURKISH WALNUT
MSRP: \$13,558 (BASE)



The Mauser's receiver ring markings harken back to the gun's origins more than a century ago (L.). The express rear sight is a classic three-leaf style with one standing and two folding—the former zeroed at 65 yds. and the latter marked to denote 150- and 250-yds.

teams a fixed 65-yd. blade with folding 150- and 250-yd. leaves, mounted on a quarter rib fronting the receiver bridge. Affixed to an over-sleeve extending back from the muzzle, the hooded front sight ramp is fitted with an interchangeable brass bead.

The rifle's ovular trigger guard attaches to a hinged floorplate covering a dropped-box magazine that bellies about a quarter-inch below the stock, thus creating sufficient capacity for four of the beefy .416 cartridges.

Stampings proudly echo the gun's heritage. The front bridge bears the same inscription it wore in 1912: "RIGBY'S SPECIAL .416 BORE FOR BIG GAME"; while the left side of the receiver states: "MAUSER M98 MAGNUM Made in Germany."

Our test rifle's notably stout stock was streaked with straight-lined, dark figure, mindful of the tendency of heavy-kicking guns to crack along pronounced burl. It was very attractive, though not so showy as high-grade stocks often adorning less powerful rifles. The wide-radius pistol grip and fore-end were bracketed with hand-cut, 22-line-per-inch, bordered checkering, both areas providing ample handholds that complement the recoil mitigation afforded by the stock's high, rounded comb and stiff,


red rubber buttpad. The satin finish was near perfect, but more attention could have been devoted to fill on such a costly gun. Wood-to-metal fit was superb. An added feature is a small compartment accessed through the color-casehardened grip cap.

Shooting the Big Game, which delivers 58 ft.-lbs. of recoil energy (three times greater than a typical .30-'06 Sprg.), was thrilling and jarring, but tolerable thanks to the smart stock design and a weight of 10 lbs., 12 ozs.

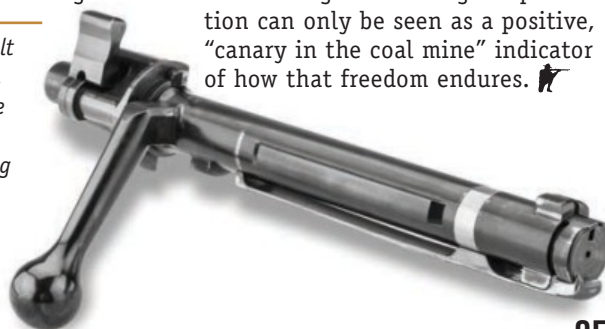
We test-fired the rifle from the bench utilizing a Caldwell Lead Sled 2, as well as from sticks and offhand. Groups at 50 yds. were disappointing, at least in part because of the difficulty in shooting such a hard-recoiling, open-sighted gun from a benchrest. The groups tended to widen with the last couple shots, and often we observed three-shot clusters of about an inch. Such rifles are predominantly fired from the standing position and we noted accordingly that first-shot accuracy from sticks was comparable to our bench results. When cycling through the magazine

freehand at distances ranging from 15 to 40 yds., we were able to hit milk jugs without fail, and there were no misfires or failures to feed or eject spent cases. Bench accuracy results notwithstanding, this rifle is highly capable of the close-range work for which it is intended.

The over-the-top safety requires attention. In the "3-o'clock" position it securely locks both firing pin and the closed bolt against unintended operation. With the "flag" up, the firing pin remains locked but the bolt can be retracted for clearing the chamber safely. This position also blocks the sight line, thus serving as a reminder that the safety is on. At "9-o'clock" the gun is ready to fire.

The Rigby Big Game is a highly specialized and expensive tool for meeting the needs, tastes and sensibilities of a unique subset of firearm owners. Beyond that, it is a living artifact of an era that exerted profound influence over shooting culture and the freedom inherent to firearm ownership and hunting. That it has been resurrected in a near-mirror image of the original production can only be seen as a positive, "canary in the coal mine" indicator of how that freedom endures. 

The Mauser's one-piece bolt features dual locking lugs, a three-position, flag-style safety, a full-length claw extractor and an extra-long integral handle/knob.



Weatherby Orion

Orion the Hunter is one of the most recognized constellations in the night sky, and for Weatherby, a recognizable new re-addition to its line of shotguns. Like others, Weatherby, the long-time rifle company that specializes in high-velocity magnum calibers, has turned to Turkey for this budget-priced over-under.

A well-thought-out, entry-level over-under, the Orion is loaded with features. Primary among them is the manual safety. This style of safety requires that the shooter apply the safety by sliding it back into the on-safe position each time the gun is fired. Because selection of one barrel or the other carrying a different choke constriction is a major feature of double guns, the barrel selector is carried in the safety slide. When a barrel is to be selected, the safety

must be fully retracted to the on-safe position. The barrels are identified by a small single dot for the lower barrel and two dots for the upper barrel.

The trigger is mechanical, which means that regardless of whether or not the first barrel fires, the second will; recoil is not required for the gun to set the sear for the second shot. We prefer this arrangement for a hunting gun, as often shots are few and far between, and if for any reason the first barrel fails to fire, the second can be brought into action.

Another outstanding feature is the automatic ejectors. In use, they eject the fired hulls with gusto, or lift unfired shells from the chamber mouth to enable easy removal, even with a gloved hand.

From the butt forward, the recoil pad is of soft material that will help soak up the kick present in any fixed-breech shotgun. The stock itself is select, but straight-grained walnut set off with a high-gloss finish. The Prince of Wales grip is comfortable and well-suited to a variety of hand sizes and is checkered for a firm hold. The fore-end of the test gun is of similar walnut and matched in color and grain to that of the buttstock. It is also checkered in a large, traditional pattern. Especially useful is the

Anson-style fore-end release rod. Rather than the more common Deeley & Edge-style fore-end latch, this type enables the user to press in on the tip of the rod and pull down, making removal of the fore-end easy.

The action is typical of Italian over-unders, with the barrels rotating on trunnions mounted on the side of the action. The monobloc barrels have matching cutouts that mate with the trunnions, making for a slender, low-profile action, and ensuring a long service life. The barrels lock to the action by means of two truncated, cone-shaped bolts that project from the face of the breech and engage mating cuts in the barrels about three-quarters of the way down the top-barrel's chamber. This locking system is in wide use and should last for years of shooting.

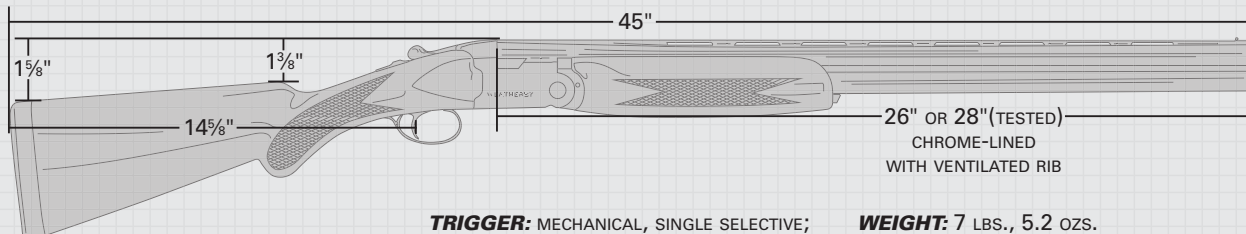
The barrels themselves also match the action's high-gloss blue finish, and are internally chrome-plated. Chrome plating serves as both a barrier to rust and corrosion, and increases lubricity, making cleaning quick and easy. The chambers are cut to exactly 3" on our Galazan chamber gauge. The barrel diameters measured 0.723" for the bottom barrel and 0.723" for the top, each just a shade tighter than the common dimension of 0.725". Three screw-in,



The Orion employs a boxlock action with barrels mounted to a monobloc that rotates on trunnions. Note the two holes toward the lower end of the upper barrel, which mate with two truncated bolts that project from the face of the receiver to effect lockup when the gun is closed.

SPECS

IMPORTER: WEATHERBY, INC., 1605 COMMERCE WAY, PASO ROBLES, CA 93446; 805-227-2600; WWW.WEATHERBY.COM



MANUFACTURER: ATA AILAH SANAYI
A.S. TURKEY
ACTION TYPE: BOXLOCK OVER-UNDER
SHOTGUN
GAUGE: 12; 3" CHAMBERS

TRIGGER: MECHANICAL, SINGLE SELECTIVE;
7-LB., 14-OZ. PULL (TOP BARREL);
7-LB. PULL (BOTTOM BARREL)
SIGHTS: SINGLE BRASS FRONT BEAD
STOCK: CHECKERED GRADE A WALNUT,
HIGH-GLOSS FINISH, PISTOL GRIP;
1/4" CAST-OFF

WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 5.2 OZS.
METAL FINISH: HIGH-GLOSS BLUED
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL,
THREE CHOKE TUBES (IMPROVED CYLINDER,
MODIFIED AND FULL)
MSRP: \$1,099




The Orion has a high-gloss-blue metal finish, high-gloss stock finish, Prince of Wales grip and generous fore-end.

Beretta-style choke tubes are supplied identified by a series of notches. Company literature advertises these to measure improved cylinder, modified and full choke, but those provided with our sample gun measured a bit more open than advertised. The four-notch tube measured true cylinder with no constriction. The three-notch provided 0.009" of constriction, just a touch less than improved cylinder, and the one-notch tube came in at 0.027", nearly full choke dimension. We did notice what appeared to be either solder-flux bloom or bluing-salt stain on both sides of the barrel ribs where they join the top and bottom barrels. Caught quickly, it's a simple matter to scrub it away with an old toothbrush and some oil.

We took the Orion to the range for some shooting and the results of the patterning are tabulated nearby. We used Rio TLT2475 ammunition, with 7/8 oz. of No. 7½ shot, which is a very versatile load for upland game and clays. The average velocity, chronographed at 3 ft., was 1361 f.p.s., a touch faster than the box states as 1340 f.p.s. No matter, as this is a soft-recoiling load good for beginners

and experienced shots alike for anything from game-farm pheasants to quail, dove, grouse, rabbits, etc. Pattern percentages with the rather open four-and three-notch tubes were fairly diffuse, and more pertinent to shooting at 30 yds. and less; tighter chokes are a problem easily solved by aftermarket purchase of tighter tubes from a source such as Trulock Chokes. Work on skeet targets on a steamy July day was more than satisfactory, as the slight barrel-forward balance kept the swing moving with the bird.

In all, the Weatherby Orion is a good entry-level shotgun with a modest price. It functioned well, and felt equally good, which is the mark of an excellent shotgun. 

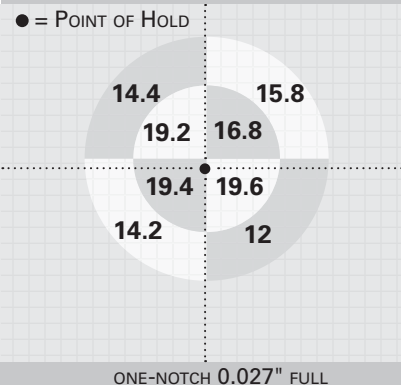


The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.

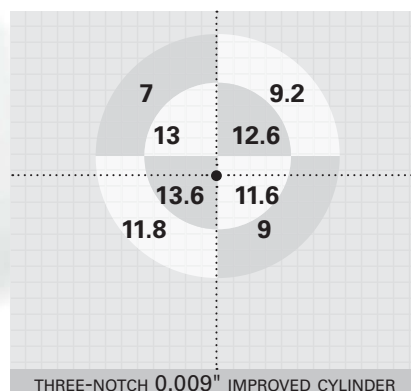
SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YDS.)

Rio TLT2475
12-GA., 2¾", 7/8 oz. No. 7½
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 310
MEASURED VELOCITY @ 3 FT.: 1361 F.P.S.
AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



TOP BARREL

21" INNER CIRCLE: 75 (23%)
30" OUTER RING: 56 (18%)
TOTAL HITS: 131 (41.4%)



BOTTOM BARREL

21" INNER CIRCLE: 51 (16.5%)
30" OUTER RING: 37 (12%)
TOTAL HITS: 88 (28%)

Three screw-in choke tubes (above) come with the gun: improved cylinder, modified and full—the latter for use with "lead only".

ILA report: Latest legislative news from inside the NRA Institute for Legislative Action

Texans to Vote on Proposition 6, the Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish



During the 2015 regular session of the Texas Legislature, NRA-ILA led a coalition of pro-hunting lawmakers and sportsmen's organizations (including the Dallas Safari Club, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the Texas State Rifle Association and Texas Outdoor Partners—a network of 60 conservation groups) to pass Senate Joint Resolution 22.

SJR 22 was sponsored by State Sen. Brandon Creighton (R-Conroe) and State Rep.

Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin). It places an amendment to the Texas Constitution establishing an individual right to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife in front of Texas voters for approval. It will appear as Proposition 6 on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The amendment reads:

(a) The people have the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife, including by the use of traditional methods, subject to laws or regulations to conserve and manage wildlife and preserve the future of hunting and fishing.

(b) Hunting and fishing are preferred methods of managing and controlling wildlife.

(c) This section does not affect any provision of law relating to trespass, property rights, or eminent domain.

(d) This section does not affect the power of the legislature to authorize a municipality to regulate the discharge of a weapon in a populated area in the interest of public safety.

Proposition 6 will ensure that wildlife conservation and management decisions continue to be based on sound science in order to preserve Texas' sporting traditions for generations to come. It will also protect your hunting heritage against future attacks from well-funded, anti-hunting organizations. Groups such as The Humane Society of the United States and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have stated clearly that it is their goal to ban hunting and fishing. Passage of constitutional amend-

ments at the state level to protect sportsmen's rights stops those efforts in their tracks. The NRA has won passage of similar amendments in a number of states, with 18 states having some form of state constitutional protection; Texas can join those states on Nov. 3.

Visit nraila.org/hunttx for more information and to download materials in support of this critical ballot measure.

"This is one of the most important actions hunters and sportsmen can take to protect our hunting heritage," said NRA-ILA Executive Director Chris Cox. "I urge Texas NRA members to vote YES on Proposition 6 on Nov. 3 and urge their family, friends and fellow gun owners and sportsmen to do the same."

"I urge Texas NRA members to vote YES on Proposition 6 on Nov. 3 and urge their family, friends and fellow gun owners and sportsmen to do the same."

Unhinged: Anti-Gun Group Seeks to Provoke Confrontations Between Police, Lawful Carriers?

The cracks are showing at the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV). CSGV's most recent move is to promote "SWATting," by asking anti-gun supporters via Twitter to call the police any time they see a gun owner in public carrying a firearm for self-defense.

Granted, it can't be easy for them these days. Overall rates of violent crime are down. Gun control standard-bearer President Barack Obama has utterly failed to advance anti-gun legislation through Congress and sounds resigned to defeat during interviews. And gun sales have soared to record highs in recent years. Worst of all, the approval rating of the NRA tops those of prominent gun control politicians.

All that money. All that outrage. All those anti-gun editorials in big city newspapers. All those academics and

"researchers" churning out anti-gun papers that immediately get picked up by the media. All those years of work.

But to CSGV anti-gunners Josh Horwitz and Ladd Everitt, we ask, has it really come to this? SWATting? Calling the cops on gun owners in the hopes of provoking confrontations? Maybe getting a law-abiding citizen, or even a police officer, killed? Maybe mistaking a cop for an armed citizen and pitting cop against cop?

We've seen this coming. We took the gun control movement to task over this a while ago, but that was different. Those were just cranks commenting on gun control websites. Still, we said, they ought to at least have the decency to disavow such tactics.

But they didn't. Instead they have now adopted those tactics as their own.

America, this is the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. That's an ironic name for a group wishing to provoke armed confrontation between police officers and law-abiding citizens.

But it's OK. Police officers and lawfully armed citizens have been getting along just fine throughout America's history, and they will undoubtedly continue to do so. In fact, the police—who keep our streets safe and believe in law-abiding citizens' right to keep and bear arms—reject gun control as the magic panacea against violent crime. Maybe that's why Horwitz and Everitt are willing to put them at risk, too.

Nice try, but we're fully confident that the good sense of responsible, law-abiding gun owners and the professionalism of America's law enforcement community will carry the day.

Summer 2015: New Record for Gun Sales?

Data from the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) indicate that firearm acquisitions set a new record during June, July and August, and are on track to finish the year higher than any year except 2013, when firearm acquisitions soared in reaction to President Barack Obama's push for gun control.

There were more than 2.6 million firearm acquisition-related checks during June through August 2015, a figure 100,000 higher than was achieved during the 2013 surge, and well above the figures for any other year since NICS' inception in November 1998.

For the first eight months of 2015, the number of firearm acquisition-related checks was the second highest on record, at 7.7 million, well behind the 9.3 million tallied during the 2013 surge, but running 365,000 ahead of the number achieved last year.

In addition to checks conducted on customers at gun stores

and FFL customers in other venues, other NICS checks are conducted for purposes of obtaining firearm purchase permits or carry permits, the latter of which in some states exempt the holders from redundant NICS checks when acquiring firearms.

NICS check numbers are not a precise measure of the number of firearms acquired, of course. They indicate only the number of checks conducted. However, viewed over time, they indicate that gun control supporters are off base in claiming that firearm ownership is on the decline. To the contrary, the long-term trend in firearm ownership is indisputably on the rise.

Gun owners should never allow the anti-gun media to diminish their hope or expectations that our fundamental rights will be fought for and protected. Our numbers are growing and our resolve is unquestionable—the misinformation of Michael Bloomberg, Obama and the mainstream media notwithstanding. ★

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

(July 28, 2015 – August 31, 2015)

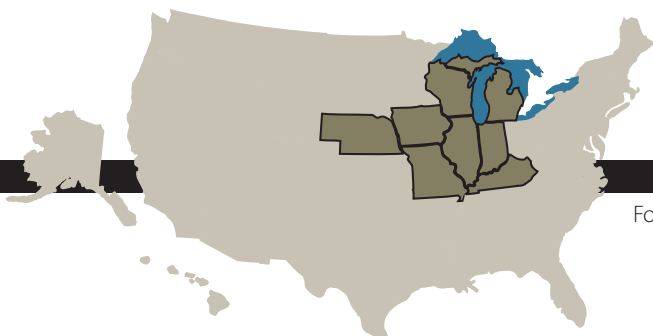
Alfred A. Bachman (from: James Syre); **Volney (Bud) Shafer** (from: Springwater Rod & Gun Club Inc.); **LTC John Henshaw-Army (Ret.)** (from: Mark A. Smith); **Chuck Seibold**, Easton, CT (from: Richard Falzey); **Jerry Ahern**, Center Line, MI (from: Jim (The Bartender) Ahern); **Roy Gillette**, Center Line, MI (from: Jim (The Bartender) Ahern); **The Founding Members of the Milton Grove Sportsmen's Club**, Elizabethtown, PA (from: Milton Grove Sportsmen Club); **Henry Uihlein** (from: Richard Uihlein); **George Alves** (from: Warren and Vickie Alves); **Darlene Hall** (from: D.M. and R.A. Hall).

ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

(The following have contributed \$1,000.00 or more to the NRA Institute: July 28, 2015 – August 25, 2015)

Brownell's Inc., Montezuma, IA; **Gary E. Beaver**, Bullhead City, AZ; **Walter E. Cheatham**, Laveen, AZ; **Al Alexander**, Wiggins, MS; **Jerry Watts**, Kathleen, GA; **J. Michael Craig**, Alexandria, VA; **Bernard Moore Williams**, Charlottesville, VA; **Karen Lien**, Perkasio, PA; **George Helms**, Canton, MI; **Jennifer Pritzker**, Chicago, IL; **Cape Radiology Group**, Cape Girardeau, MO; **P. Barret**, Newnan, GA; **James E. Hall**, Midland, TX; **Ruth Brewer**, Platteville, CO; **Robert W. Considine**, Gladwin, MI.

ILA Grassroots: (800) 392-8683 • NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170 • NRA-ILA website: nraila.org



regional report • central

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org

FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent

auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Central Region Director—Chad Franklin
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MI—Allan Herman
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WI—Scott Taetsch
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Northern MO—Travis Scott
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Southern MO—Gregg Pearre
gpearre@nrahq.org

KY—John LaRowe
jlarrowe@nrahq.org



This Kimber Pro Carry II 1911 .45 ACP with Custom Crimson Trace Lasergrips and with "Gun of the Year" printed on it is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

Member information & benefits

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NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
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GIFT PLANNING** 877-NRA-GIVE
800-423-6894
THE NRA FOUNDATION
**NRA INSTRUCTOR/
COACH FIREARM TRAINING** 703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct

areashoots

PISTOL	
HIGHLAND, IL	NOV. 8
HIGH POWER RIFLE	
FREEDOM, IN	NOV. 7
SILHOUETTE	
FRIENDSHIP, IN	NOV. 7-8
WRIGHT CITY, MO	NOV. 8
EFFINGHAM, IL	NOV. 28-29

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

NOV. 16-20—SUGAR CREEK, MO
(Handgun/Shotgun)
Contact **Rudis Amaya** at
ramaya@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1636.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at **nrainstructors.org**, by email at **refuse@nrahq.org** or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

NOV. 7—WATERFORD, MI
(Seminar)
L. Kimble (248) 563-2493

NOV. 9—FISHERS, IN
(Seminar)
Lori Winstead (317) 292-4129

NOV. 15—LAFAYETTE, IN
(Seminar)
Arthur Burk (765) 838-0700

NOV. 18-19—ANN ARBOR, MI
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Steven Reed (734) 761-5860

NOV. 28—SEDALIA, MO
(Seminar)
Earl Cadle (660) 473-6949

NOV. 29—SEDALIA, MO
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Earl Cadle (660) 473-6949

NOVEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit **nraonlinetraining.org** for more information.



gunshows

NOV. 6-7 CLEAR LAKE, WI
Clear Lake Community Center, Clear Lake Fire Department (715) 491-9959

NOV. 6-7 LA CROSSE, WI
Overtime Sports Bar & Banquet Center, Bearing Arms Gun Shows (715) 308-8772

NOV. 6-8 ROTHSCHILD, WI
Rothschild Patriot Center, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

NOV. 6-8 MOUNT CLEMENS, MI
Gibraltar Trade Center, Angela Neargarder-Gibraltar Trade Center (586) 465-6440

NOV. 6-8 MOBERLY, MO
Moberly Moose Lodge, Sweet Springs Gun Shows (660) 651-2297

NOV. 7-8 BLOOMINGTON, IL
Interstate Center, ECA Hunting & Trade Shows (618) 495-2572

NOV. 7-8 EAST PEORIA, IL
East Peoria Events Center, Midwest Gun Collectors' Association (309) 274-2977

NOV. 7-8 ROCKY MOUNT, MO
American Veterans Post 108, Rocky Mount Gun Shows (573) 480-1517

NOV. 7-8 ST. CHARLES, MO
St. Charles Convention Center, St. Louis Weapon Collectors (314) 846-0751

NOV. 7-8 OWENSBORO, KY
Owensboro Convention Center, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757

NOV. 7-8 SOMERSET, KY
The Center for Rural Development, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

NOV. 7-8 CROWN POINT, IN
Lake County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

NOV. 7-8 MITCHELL, NE
Scottsbluff County Fairgrounds, Bluff Shooters (308) 631-5656

NOV. 8 MIDLAND, MI
The Great Hall Convention Center at the Valley Plaza Resort, PJS Promotions LLC (989) 798-8709

NOV. 8 CRYSTAL LAKE, IL
Holiday Inn Convention Center, D.J. Guns (815) 385-1982

NOV. 8 ST. CHARLES, IL
Kane County Fairgrounds, Kane County Sportsman's Shows (815) 758-2773

NOV. 13 ROMULUS, MI
Romulus Progressive Club, Doug Dalton Auctioneer (800) 801-6452

NOV. 13-15 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
Evansville Hawkeye Downs, Trade Show Productions (888) 552-1486

NOV. 13-15 EVANSVILLE, IN
National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors LLC (812) 521-9367

NOV. 14 JOLIET, IL
Joliet Moose Lodge, The Cloe Group LLC (815) 263-2810

NOV. 14-15 LEBANON, MO
Cowan Civic Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

NOV. 14-15 JACKSONVILLE, IL
Diamond Expo Center, Diamond Center LLC (217) 248 1698

NOV. 14-15 PADUCAH, KY
Julian Carroll Convention Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

NOV. 14-15 KOKOMO, IN
Ivy Tech Kokomo Event Center, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

NOV. 20-21 OTTUMWA, IA
Bridge View Center, Midwest Arms Collectors LLC (660) 341-7908

NOV. 21-22 NEW BERLIN, IL
Sangamon County Fairgrounds, Central Illinois Gun Collectors (217) 416-0618

NOV. 21-22 CAVE CITY, KY
Cave City Convention Center, S/T Promotions (270) 622-2185

NOV. 21-22 FREMONT, NE
Christensen Field, Midwest Arms Collectors LLC (660) 341-7908

NOV. 27-29 DES MOINES, IA
Iowa State Fairgrounds, Trade Show Productions (888) 552-1486

NOV. 27-29 BRIDGETON, MO
Machinist's Hall, Saint Louis Weapon Collectors (314) 846-0751

NOV. 27-29 COLUMBIA, MO
Midway Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

NOV. 27-29 INDIANAPOLIS, IN
Stout Field National Guard Armory, Tri-State Gun & Knife Collectors (812) 521-9367

NOV. 27-29 LEXINGTON, KY
Lexington Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

NOV. 28-29 MUNCIE, IN
Delaware County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

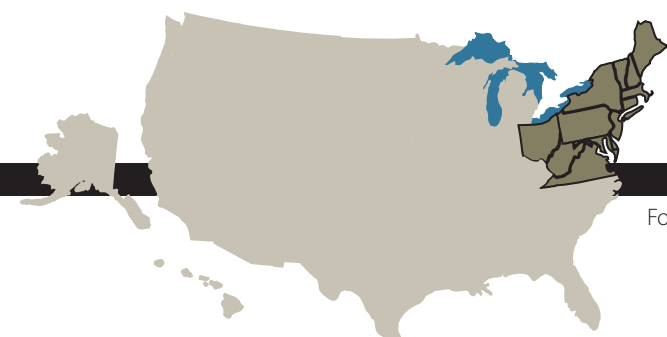
NOV. 28-29 NOVI, MI
The Suburban Collection Showplace, Michigan Antique Arms Collectors (248) 348-5600

NOV. 28-29 FORT WAYNE, IN
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, CPI Shows (260) 483-6144

NOV. 28-29 CHAMPAIGN, IL
Fluid Event Center, ECA Hunting & Trade Shows (618) 492-2572

NOV. 28-29 KANKAKEE, IL
Kankakee County Fairgrounds, The Cloe Group LLC (815) 263-2810

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3776.



regional report • east

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

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FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Eastern Region Director—
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Eastern VA, Eastern MD, Washington, DC—
David Wells
dwells@nrahq.org

Western VA, Western MD, WV—Jim Kilgore
jkilgore@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with common-sense crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

NOV. 2—RICHMOND, VA
(Seminar)
Sydney Van Buren (804) 874-2343

NOV. 7—BASSETT, VA
(Seminar)
Susan Traxel-Martin (276) 358-1179

NOV. 7—BASSETT, VA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Susan Traxel-Martin (276) 358-1179

NOV. 8—UPPER MARLBORO, MD
(Seminar)
Andre Walker (888) 456-5740

NOV. 8—RANSON, WV
(Seminar)
Dennis Stoika (732) 620-2311

NOV. 14—WEST ELKTON, OH
(Instructor Development Workshop)
John Farquhar (937) 787-4414

NOV. 14—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

NOV. 21—KILMARNOCK, VA
(Seminar)
Robert Heller (804) 410-5905

NOV. 21—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

NOV. 22—ASHAWAY, RI
(Seminar)
Lyd Neugent (401) 377-8184

NOV. 28—PEEKSKILL, NY
(Seminar)
Steven Donahoo (914) 471-5632

NOVEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

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PISTOL

ANNAPOLIS, MD	NOV. 7-8
WARREN, OH	NOV. 15
MORRISVILLE, PA	NOV. 21
OLD BRIDGE, NJ	NOV. 28-29

SMALLBORE RIFLE

MILLVILLE, NJ	NOV. 15
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HIGH POWER RIFLE

NEW TRIPOLI, PA	NOV. 1
BRIDGEVILLE, DE	NOV. 1
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA	NOV. 7
HOLLAND, PA	NOV. 15
JACKSON, NJ	NOV. 22
MONTPELIER, VA	NOV. 28

SILHOUETTE

SUFFOLK, VA	NOV. 1
MCDONALDS, PA	NOV. 7
MONTPELIER, VA	NOV. 14
SUDLERSVILLE, MD	NOV. 21

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

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INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

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NRAstore.com	(888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100	(800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan	(888) 436-3700
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NRA Endorsed Moving Program	
North American Van Lines	(800) 524-5533
Allied Van Lines	(800) 871-8864

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Grassroots/Legislative Hotline	(800) 392-8683
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OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT/ GIFT PLANNING	877-NRA-GIVE
THE NRA FOUNDATION	800-423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING	703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM	800-231-0752
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RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS	800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES	877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING	877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT	703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA	703-267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS	703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS	866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS	703-267-1595

The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, appears in every issue of *American Rifleman*, *American Hunter* and *America's 1st Freedom*. The Regional Report is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct

in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

NOV. 2-6—MANCHESTER, NJ
(Patrol Rifle)

NOV. 2-6—STAUNTON, VA
(Tactical Shooting)

Contact **Erica Buchanan** at
ebuchanan@nrahq.org or
(703) 267-1638.

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

NOV. 14—LEBANON, PA
(Approved)

NOV. 14—SCITUATE, RI
(Approved)

Contact **Tiffany King** at tking@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1621.

gunshows

NOV. 7-8 ABINGDON, VA
Washington County Fairgrounds, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

NOV. 7-8 NORFOLK, VA
Norfolk Scope Arena, SGK Gun Shows (757) 483-5385

NOV. 7-8 WINCHESTER, VA
Sportsplex, SGK Gun Shows (757) 483-5385

NOV. 7-8 SHARONVILLE, OH
Sharonville Convention Center, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

NOV. 7-8 LIMA, OH
Allen County Fairgrounds, Tri-State Gun Collectors (419) 647-0067

NOV. 7-8 MIDDLETOWN, NY
Orange County Fairgrounds, Mid-Hudson Promotions Inc. (914) 248-1000

NOV. 7-8 BLOOMSBURG, PA
Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

NOV. 7-8 MAUMEE, OH
Lucas County Recreation Center, Maumee Valley Gun Collectors Association (419) 893-1110

NOV. 7-8 PITTSBURGH, PA
Shoppes At Northway, Pennsylvania Gun Collectors (412) 486-1129

NOV. 7-8 ABINGTON, MA
Emerald Hall, Hawken Enterprise (781) 929-0508

NOV. 7-8 NILES, OH
Eastwood Expo Center, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

NOV. 7-8 GREENCASTLE, PA
Mason Dixon Auto Auction Expo, Appalachian Promotions (717) 697-3088

NOV. 7-8 EAST CANTON, OH
Foltz Community Center, Heritage Gun Shows (330) 806-1110

NOV. 14-15 FREDERICK, MD
Frederick Fairgrounds, Silverado Promotions (301) 874-5012 *

NOV. 14-15 RICHMOND, VA
Richmond Raceway Complex, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016 *

NOV. 14-15 EASTON, MD
Talbot Community Center, Eastern Shore Arms Collectors Inc. (410) 822-1555

NOV. 14-15 WILMINGTON, MA
Shriners Auditorium, New-Mart Promotions Inc. (914) 248-1000

NOV. 14-15 ALTOONA, PA
Blair County Convention Center, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

NOV. 14-15 LEESPORT, PA
Leesport Farmers Market, Appalachian Promotions (717) 697-3088

NOV. 14-15 MEDINA, OH
Medina County Fairgrounds, Conrad & Dowdell Productions (330) 948-4400

NOV. 14-15 CARLISLE, PA
Carlisle Expo Center, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

NOV. 14-15 JEFFERSON, OH
Jeffersonville Crossing, Front Sight Promotions LLC (740) 667-0412

NOV. 14-15 MIDDLETOWN, CT
The Elks Lodge 771, Ye Connecticut Gun Guild (860) 670-5169

NOV. 20-22 CHANTILLY, VA
Dulles Expo Center, C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016 *

NOV. 21-22 MORGANTOWN, WV
Mylan Park, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016 *

NOV. 21-22 PHILADELPHIA, PA
Philadelphia National Guard Armory, Appalachian Promotions (717) 697-3088

NOV. 21-22 ALLENTOWN, PA
Econo Lodge (Rodeway Inn), Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

NOV. 21-22 DAYTON, OH
Dayton Hara Arena, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

NOV. 21-22 MANSFIELD, OH
Richland County Fairgrounds, Heritage Gun Shows (330) 806-1110 *

NOV. 21-22 MONTPELIER, OH
Williams County Fairgrounds, D&K Enterprises (419) 737-2801

NOV. 21-22 NORWALK, OH
Huron County Fairgrounds, Bill-Mar Promotions (440) 986-5004

NOV. 21-22 WILMINGTON, OH
Roberts Center, Ohio Gun Collectors Association (330) 467-5733

NOV. 21-22 BEREA, OH
Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

NOV. 21-22 ORANGE, CT
Community Center, Stratford Gun Collectors (203) 387-7905

NOV. 21-22 SPRINGVILLE, NY
Springville Vol. Fire Hall, Niagara Frontier Gun Shows (716) 542-9929

NOV. 28-29 HAMPTON, VA
Hampton Roads Convention Center, SGK Gun Shows (757) 483-5385

NOV. 28-29 HARRISONBURG, VA
Rockingham County Fairgrounds, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

NOV. 28-29 HARTFORD, CT
Connecticut Valley Auto Auction Building, Green Mountain Gun & Knife Shows (802) 875-4540

NOV. 28-29 WINDGAP, PA
Plainfield Fire Co., Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

NOV. 28-29 COLUMBUS, OH
Westland Mall, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

NOV. 28-29 MONROEVILLE, PA
Monroeville Convention Center, Showmasters and C&E Gun Shows Inc. (540) 953-0016

NOV. 28-29 HAZELTON, PA
Genettis Best Western Hazleton, Jaeger Arms Productions (570) 470-6404

NOV. 28-29 DALTON, OH
Buckeye Event Center, Ohio Gun Shows (330) 539-4247

NOV. 28-29 EASTLAKE, OH
Radisson Hotel, LG&CB Firearms Productions (216) 338-1271

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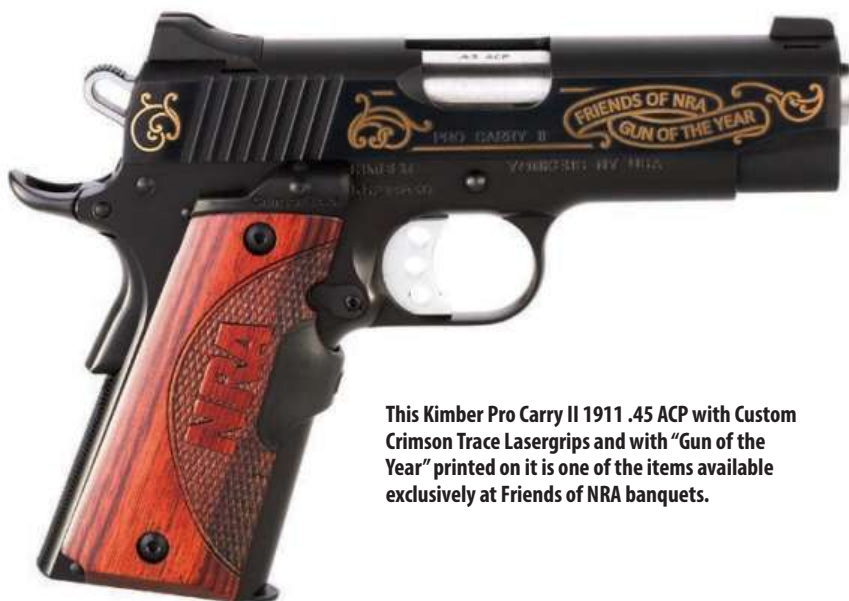
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This Kimber Pro Carry II 1911 .45 ACP with Custom Crimson Trace Laser Grips and with "Gun of the Year" printed on it is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

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INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/
COACH FIREARM TRAINING 703-267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM 800-861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

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CO—Brad Dreier
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NM—Kevin Post
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Northern TX—Terry Free
tfree@nrahq.org

Southern TX—Liz Foley
efoley@nrahq.org

Western TX—Jack Cannon
jcannon@nrahq.org

areashoots

PISTOL

DAVIS, OK	NOV. 14
DENVER, CO	NOV. 21
MIDLAND, TX	NOV. 28
HOUSTON, TX	NOV. 29

SMALLBORE RIFLE

PINE BLUFF, AR	NOV. 7
WHITEWATER, KS	NOV. 7
HALTOM CITY, TX	NOV. 15
TERRELL, TX	NOV. 21

HIGH POWER RIFLE

N. LITTLE ROCK, AR	NOV. 1
CARTHAGE, TX	NOV. 7
BOULDER, CO	NOV. 14
DESOTA, KS	NOV. 15
DAVIS, OK	NOV. 15

SILHOUETTE

BYERS, CO	NOV. 1
BENTON, AR	NOV. 7
HOBBS, NM	NOV. 7
ROBERT LEE, TX	NOV. 7
GARDEN CITY, KS	NOV. 8
ARCADIA, OK	NOV. 21

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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NOV. 2-6—SAN ANTONIO, TX
(Handgun)

NOV. 30 - DEC. 4—SAN ANTONIO, TX
(Patrol Rifle)
Contact **Mary Shine** at
mshine@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1628.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit refuse.nra.org. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at nrainstructors.org, by email at refuse@nrahq.org or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

NOV. 9—WICHITA, KS
(Seminar)
Warren Glore (316) 641-2842

NOV. 23—WICHITA, KS
(Seminar)
Warren Glore (316) 641-2842

NOVEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlinetraining.org for more information.

**Refuse
To Be A Victim.®**



gunshows

NOV. 7-8 Denver Merchandise Mart, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	DENVER, CO	NOV. 21-22 Kansas Coliseum, US Weapons Collectors (563) 927-8176	WICHITA, KS
NOV. 7-8 Western State Bank Expo Center, G&S Promotions (918) 659-2201	DODGE CITY, KS	NOV. 21-22 White County Fairgrounds, G&S Promotions (918) 659-2201	SEARCY, AR
NOV. 7-8 Scottsbluff County Fairgrounds, Bluff Shooters (308) 631-5656	MITCHELL, NE	NOV. 21-22 Brenham Firemen's Center, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881	BRENHAM, TX
NOV. 7-8 Western Frontier Gun Shows, Western Frontier Gun Shows (575) 430-8681	CARLSBAD, NM	NOV. 21-22 Brownwood Coliseum, Silver Spur Trade Shows (806) 253-1322	BROWNWOOD, TX
NOV. 7-8 Socorro County Fairgrounds, Socorro Lions Club (575) 418-8614	SOCORRO, NM	NOV. 21-22 Lakeland Plaza, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	LEWISVILLE, TX
NOV. 7-8 San Antonio Events Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	SAN ANTONIO, TX	NOV. 21-22 Maude Cobb Activity Center, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577	LONGVIEW, TX
NOV. 7-8 Little Rock Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	LITTLE ROCK, AR	NOV. 21-22 Pasadena Convention Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 331-5969	PASADENA, TX
NOV. 7-8 Great Plains Coliseum, Metcalf Gun Shows (918) 272-1119	LAWTON, OK	NOV. 21-22 Richard M. Bouchard Regional Fairgrounds, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	ROBSTOWN, TX
NOV. 7-8 Big Town Exhibit Hall, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194	MESQUITE, TX	NOV. 22 VFW Hall, Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Association (913) 302-8707	LENEXA, KS
NOV. 7-8 San Antonio Events Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	SAN ANTONIO, TX	NOV. 27-29 Rustic Hills Event Center, Prospectors Sertoma Gun Shows (719) 630-3976	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
NOV. 14-15 The Ranch, Tanner Gun Shows (303) 756-3467	LOVELAND, CO	NOV. 28-29 Northeast Arkansas District Fair, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176	JONESBORO, AR
NOV. 14-15 Tulsa Fairgrounds, Tulsa Gun Show Inc. (918) 492-0401	TULSA, OK	NOV. 28-29 Oklahoma State Fair Park, Metcalf Gun Shows (918) 272-1119	OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
NOV. 14-15 Dripping Springs Ranch Park, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX	NOV. 28-29 Dallas Market Hall, Dallas Arms Collectors Association (972) 369-6062	DALLAS, TX
NOV. 14-15 Will Rogers Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009	FT. WORTH, TX	NOV. 28-29 McAllen Convention Center, Saxet Gun Shows (361) 289-2256	MCALLEN, TX
NOV. 14-15 GRB Convention Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Shows (281) 331-5969	HOUSTON, TX	NOV. 28-29 Herby Ham Activity Center, Eagle Outfitters (210) 371-3001	UVALDE, TX

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3776.

regional report • south

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit nraam.org

FRIENDS OF NRA

Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent

auctions, and more. You'll also find many unique items, including limited-edition firearms, wildlife art, jewelry and outdoor gear. These items are only available at Friends of NRA events. To learn more about events in your area, visit friendsofnra.org, contact your local field representative or call (800) 672-3888, ext. 1351.

Southern Region Director—Al Hammond
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AL, MS—Gene Newman
gnewman@nrahq.org

Northern FL—Bret Eldridge
peldridge@nrahq.org

Southern FL—Tom Knight
tknight@nrahq.org

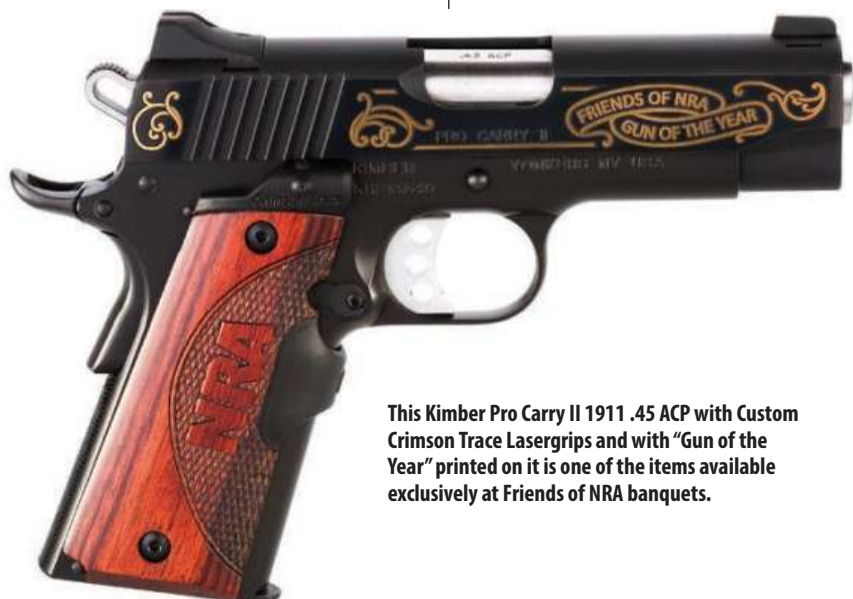
GA—Neely Raper
nraper@nrahq.org

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ledwards@nrahq.org

Western NC—Doug Merrill
rmerrill@nrahq.org

TN—Mike Webb
mwebb@nrahq.org

SC—Freeman Coleman
fcoleman@nrahq.org



This Kimber Pro Carry II 1911 .45 ACP with Custom Crimson Trace Lasergrips and with "Gun of the Year" printed on it is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

Member information & benefits

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000

NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000
 INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE (800) 672-3888
NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

MEMBER PROGRAMS
 Hertz Car Rental CDP# 166609 (800) 654-2200
 AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

areashoots

PISTOL

LAKELAND, TN	NOV. 7
WAXHAW, NC	NOV. 14
HOLMWOOD, LA	NOV. 14
JACKSONVILLE, FL	NOV. 15
COVINGTON, GA	NOV. 22
ORANGEBURG, SC	NOV. 28

SMALLBORE RIFLE

CUSSETA, GA	NOV. 15
RIDGEVILLE, SC	NOV. 21-22

HIGH POWER RIFLE

WAXHAW, NC	NOV. 1
BELTON, SC	NOV. 1
CUSSETA, GA	NOV. 7
DONALDSONVILLE, LA	NOV. 7
LAKELAND, TN	NOV. 8
ORLANDO, FL	NOV. 28
HOOVER, AL	NOV. 29

SILHOUETTE

ORLANDO, FL	NOV. 1
HOOVER, AL	NOV. 7
BRANDON, MS	NOV. 7
ARDEN, NC	NOV. 14
GATSON, SC	NOV. 21
BRUNSWICK, GA	NOV. 21
CHATTANOOGA, TN	NOV. 21

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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NOV. 2-6—ROCK HILL, SC
(Precision Rifle)

NOV. 16-20—FLORENCE, AL
(Handgun/Shotgun)

NOV. 16-20—PEARL, MS
(Patrol Rifle)
Contact **Rudis Amaya** at
ramaya@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1636.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides men and women with crime prevention and personal safety strategies. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the Internet at **nrainstructors.org**, by email at **refuse@nrahq.org** or by phone at (800) 861-1166.

NOV. 7—LAKE PARK, FL
(Seminar)
David D'Eugenio (561) 844-1381

NOV. 9—FORT MYERS, FL
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Alecs Dean (239) 357-3437

NOV. 14—FAYETTEVILLE, NC
(Seminar)
Harold Beverage (910) 491-3106

NOV. 19—FORT MYERS, FL
(Seminar)
Alecs Dean (239) 357-3437

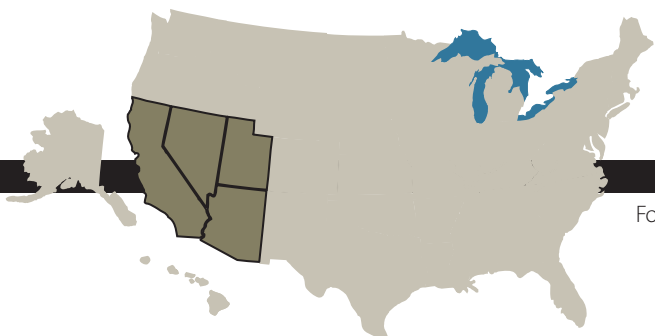
NOV. 21—WINTER HAVEN, FL
(Seminar)
John Adams (863) 299-3236

NOVEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit **nraonlineintraining.org** for more information.

gunshows

NOV. 7-8 DeKalb County VFW Ag Fairgrounds, VPI Gun Shows (256) 381-0506 *	FORT PAYNE, AL	NOV. 14-15 Jamil Shrine Temple, SCACA (803) 463-9377*	COLUMBIA, SC
NOV. 7-8 Multiplex-Cramton Bowl, Collectors & Shooters Club (334) 322-8818	MONTGOMERY, AL	NOV. 14-15 GA National Fairgrounds & Agricenter, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867	PERRY, GA
NOV. 7-8 Columbus GA Convention Center, Eastman Gun Shows (229) 423-4867	COLUMBUS, GA	NOV. 14-15 Wahabi Shrine Temple, Big Pop Fireworks (601) 498-4235	JACKSON, MS
NOV. 7-8 Havert L Fenn Center, Patriot Productions (866) 611-0442	FT. PIERCE, FL	NOV. 21-22 Lake Charles Civic Center, Gator Guns (337) 527-9885	LAKE CHARLES, LA
NOV. 7-8 Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900	NASHVILLE, TN	NOV. 21-22 Greater Gulf State Fairgrounds, Collectors & Shooters Club (334) 322-8818	MOBILE, AL
NOV. 7-8 Cabarrus Arena & Events Center, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016	CONCORD, NC	NOV. 21-22 War Memorial Auditorium, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870	FT. LAUDERDALE, FL
NOV. 7-8 Manatee County Civic Center, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870	PALMETTO, FL	NOV. 21-22 Araba Shrine Temple, Ft. Myers Antique Arms Collectors (847) 863-3929	FT. MYERS, FL
NOV. 7-8 Elks Lodge, Florida Gun Expo (305) 922-3677	POMPANO BEACH, FL	NOV. 21-22 Kiwanis Fairgrounds, North GA Gun Shows (828) 557-1543	BLUE RIDGE, GA
NOV. 7-8 Elberton Fairgrounds, North GA Gun Shows (828) 557-1543	ELBERTON, GA	NOV. 21-22 Clarence Brown Conference Center, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176	CARTERSVILLE, GA
NOV. 7-8 MeadowView Center, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176 *	KINGSPORT, TN	NOV. 21-22 Melbourne Auditorium, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455	MELBOURNE, FL
NOV. 7-8 Jim Miller Park, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176	MARIETTA, GA	NOV. 21-22 Williamson County Ag Expo Center, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176 *	FRANKLIN, TN
NOV. 7-8 North Shore Harbor Center, Slidell Gun & Knife Shows (985) 285-2905	SLIDELL, LA	NOV. 21-22 NC State Fairgrounds, Dixie Gun & Knife Shows (919) 781-1287	RALEIGH, NC
NOV. 7-8 Jackson County Pascagoula Fairgrounds, Big Pop Fireworks (601) 498-4235	PASCAGOULA, MS	NOV. 21-22 Forrest County Multi-Purpose, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757	HATTIESBURG, MS
NOV. 14-15 Lamar Dixon Expo Hall, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577	GONZALES, LA	NOV. 28-29 Winston Salem Fairgrounds, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016	WINSTON-SALEM, NC
NOV. 14-15 Morgan County Fairgrounds, VPI Gun Shows (256) 381-0506	DECATUR, AL	NOV. 28-29 Greater Birmingham Convention Center, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757	BIRMINGHAM, AL
NOV. 14-15 Lakeland Center, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870	LAKELAND, FL	NOV. 28-29 Central Florida Fairgrounds, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870	ORLANDO, FL
NOV. 14-15 Caldwell County Fairgrounds, Gem Capitol Shows (828) 524-2064	LENOIR, NC	NOV. 28-29 Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176 *	LAWRENCEVILLE, GA
NOV. 14-15 South Florida Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455	WEST PALM BEACH, FL	NOV. 28-29 Exchange Park Fairgrounds, Mike Kent Gun Shows (770) 630-7296 *	LADSON, SC
NOV. 14-15 Agricenter International, R.K. Gun Shows (563) 927-8176	GERMANTOWN, TN	NOV. 28-29 Union County AG Center, Gem Capitol Shows (828) 524-2064	MONROE, NC

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3772.



regional report • southwest

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

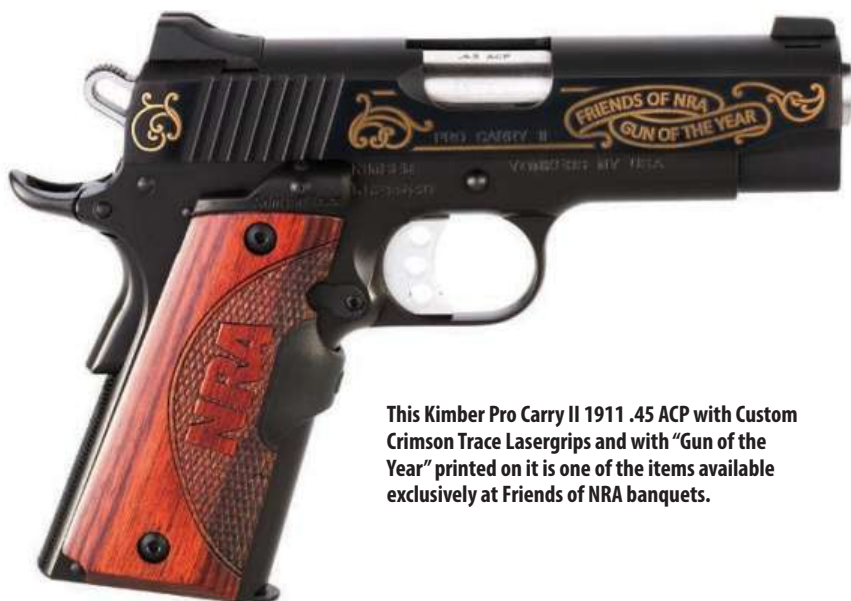
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Southwest Region Director—Jason Quick
jquick@nrahq.org



This Kimber Pro Carry II 1911 .45 ACP with Custom Crimson Trace Lasergrips and with "Gun of the Year" printed on it is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

AZ—Winston Pendleton
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Mid CA—Bob Anderson
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Central CA—Paul Rodarmel
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Northern CA—Dan Wilhelm
dwilhelm@nrahq.org

Southern CA—Mike Davis
mdavis@nrahq.org

Eastern CA—Cole Beverly
cbeverly@nrahq.org

NV—Steve Wilson
swilson@nrahq.org

UT—John Kendall
jkendall@nrahq.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT

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areashoots

PISTOL

SLOUGHHOUSE, CA	NOV. 1
OJAI, CA	NOV. 1
PHOENIX, AZ	NOV. 8
ESCONDIDO, CA	NOV. 9
DULZURA, CA	NOV. 28

HIGH POWER RIFLE

OJAI, CA	NOV. 1
SEELEY, CA	NOV. 1
WENDOVER, UT	NOV. 7
YUMA, AZ	NOV. 8
RENO, NV	NOV. 21
TUCSON, AZ	NOV. 28

SILHOUETTE

BURNEY, CA	NOV. 8
GLENDAL, AZ	NOV. 8
TUCSON, AZ	NOV. 15
SAN FERNANDO, CA	NOV. 22
BISHOP, CA	NOV. 28
YUMA, AZ	NOV. 28

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Member information & benefits

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NRAstore.com (888) 607-6007

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AVIS Car Rental AWD# A832100 (800) 225-7094
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NRA Endorsed Prescription Plan (888) 436-3700
NRA Endorsed Check Program (888) 331-6767
NRA VISA Card (866) NRA-VISA
NRA Real Estate/Relocation Services (800) 593-2526
NRA Endorsed Moving Program
North American Van Lines (800) 524-5533
Allied Van Lines (800) 871-8864

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Grassroots/Legislative Hotline (800) 392-8683

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THE NRA FOUNDATION 800-423-6894
**NRA INSTRUCTOR/
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EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM 800-231-0752
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RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS 703-267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS 800-NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES 877-672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING 877-672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT 703-267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA 703-267-1342
**NRA MUSEUMS/
GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS** 703-267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS 866-343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS 703-267-1595

designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

NOV. 2-6—SAN DIEGO, CA
(Handgun/Shotgun)

NOV. 16-20—SAN DIEGO, CA
(Tactical Shotgun)

NOV. 16-20—LAS VEGAS, NV
(Patrol Rifle)

NOV. 16-20—PRESCOTT VALLEY, AZ
(Tactical Shooting)

NOV. 30-DEC. 4—MESA, AZ
(Handgun)

Contact **Mary Shine** at
mshine@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1628.

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

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NOV. 9—AVONDALE, AZ
(Seminar)
Steve Chung (800) 937-1849

NOV. 15—SAN BERNARDINO, CA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
William Flory (951) 928-2794

NOV. 21—AVONDALE, AZ
(Seminar)
Michael Abramovich (623) 628-2196

NOVEMBER—ONLINE
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Visit nraonlineintraining.org for more information.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.



gunshows

NOV. 6-8 Baldinis Casino, Silver Sage Promotions (775) 287-3951	SPARKS, NV	NOV. 21-22 Mesa Convention Center, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125	MESA, AZ
NOV. 7-8 Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce, Bullhead City Kiwanis Morning Club (928) 201-2333	BULLHEAD CITY, AZ	NOV. 21-22 Mohave County Fairgrounds, Murphy Gun Shows (208) 410-0221	KINGMAN, AZ
NOV. 7-8 Yuma County Fairgrounds, Murphy Gun Shows (208) 410-0221	YUMA, AZ	NOV. 21-22 Contra Costa County Fairgrounds, Code of the West (530) 676-8762	ANTIOCH, CA
NOV. 7-8 Pima County Fairgrounds, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125	TUCSON, AZ	NOV. 21-22 Fresno County Fairgrounds, Central Coast Gun Shows (805) 481-6726	FRESNO, CA
NOV. 7-8 Loleta Fireman's Pavilion, Phoenix Productions (707) 496-1883	LOLETA, CA	NOV. 21-22 Antelope County Fairgrounds, Glendale Gun Shows (619) 997-4154	LANCASTER, CA
NOV. 7-8 El Dorado Fairgrounds, Buck Stop Gun Shows (530) 622-9486	PLACERVILLE, CA	NOV. 21-22 Redding Holiday Inn, Patrick Jones (530) 222-3223	REDDING, CA
NOV. 7-8 Elko County Fairgrounds, American Dream Gun Shows (775) 835-9677	ELKO, NV	NOV. 21-22 The Sport Center, Oklahoma City Gun Shows (405) 842-3277	LAS VEGAS, NV
NOV. 7-8 South Point Casino, Rocky Mountain Gun Shows (801) 589-0975	LAS VEGAS, NV	NOV. 21-22 South Towne Expo Center, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125	SANDY, UT
NOV. 14-15 Verde Valley Fairgrounds, Firing Pin Enterprizes (928) 485-0437	COTTONWOOD, AZ	NOV. 27-28 Utah Valley Convention Center, Utah Valley Gun Shows (385) 201-7403	PROVO, UT
NOV. 14-15 Paradise Veterans Memorial Hall, Paradise Rod & Gun Club (530) 624-2200	PARADISE, CA	NOV. 28-29 Orange County Fair and Event Center, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125	COSTA MESA, CA
NOV. 14-15 California Exposition and State Fair, Crossroads of the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125	SACRAMENTO, CA	NOV. 28-29 Howard Park, Buck Stop Gun Shows (530) 622-9486	IONE, CA
NOV. 14-15 Golden Spike Events Center, Rocky Mountain Gun Shows (801) 589-0975	OGDEN, UT	NOV. 28-29 Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, U.S. Gun Trader (530) 701-8659	YUBA CITY, CA

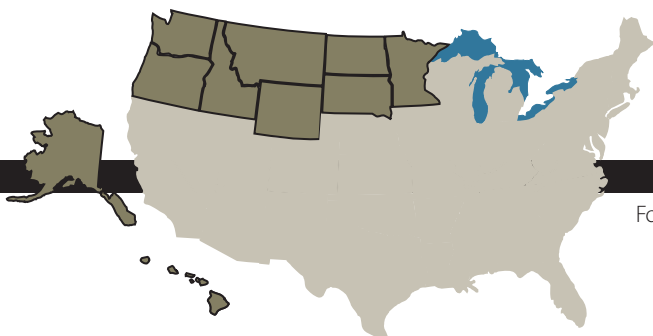
Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3784.

Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
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(623) 687-4251
president@asrpa.com

California Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
(714) 992-2772
contact@crpa.org

Nevada Firearms Coalition
Don Turner, President
(702) 373-5935
don@nvfac.org

Utah State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n
Elwood Powell, President
(801) 499-9763
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regional report • west

2016 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 20-22 • LOUISVILLE, KY

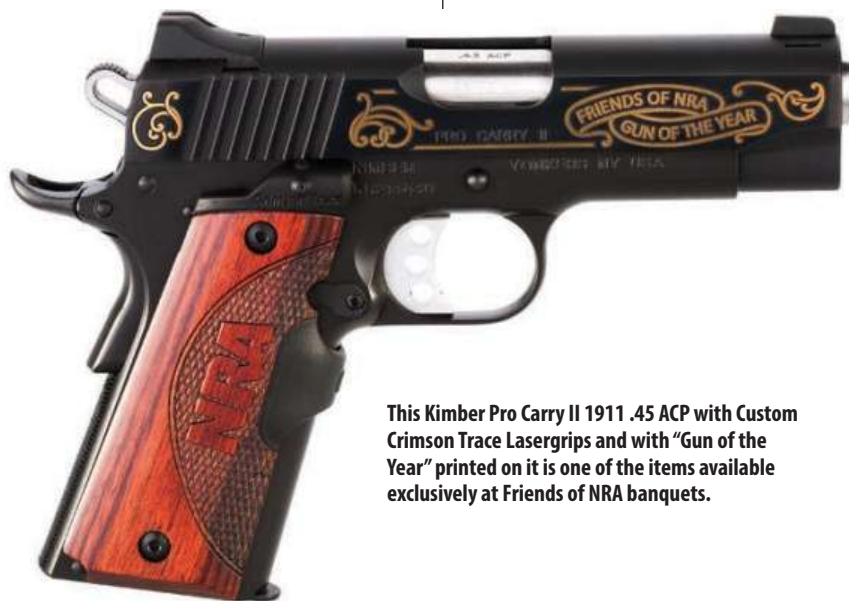
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Whether you're a hunter, competitive shooter or just a proud gun owner, Friends of NRA has something for everyone. The format is simple—food, fun, family and fundraising! At every Friends of NRA banquet you'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent

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Western Region Director—Brad Kruger
bkruger@nrahq.org



This Kimber Pro Carry II 1911 .45 ACP with Custom Crimson Trace Laser Grips and with "Gun of the Year" printed on it is one of the items available exclusively at Friends of NRA banquets.

MN—Eric Linder

elinder@nrahq.org

ND, SD—Clay Pederson

cpederson@nrahq.org

Northern AK—Josh Toennesen

jtoennesen@nrahq.org

Southern AK—Greg Stephens

gstephens@nrahq.org

ID—Steve Vreeland

svreeland@nrahq.org

MT—Joe Crismore

jcrismore@nrahq.org

OR, HI—Mike Carey

mcarey@nrahq.org

WA—Michael Herrera

mherrera@nrahq.org

WY—Dave Manzer

dmanzer@nrahq.org

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

NRA-affiliated state associations promote and support the purposes, objectives, policies and programs of the NRA. For more information, contact your state association listed here, or log on to clubs.nra.org.

Alaska Outdoor Council Inc.

Rod Arno, Executive Director
(907) 264-6645

aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Member information & benefits

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PISTOL

SPRINGFIELD, OR NOV. 8
SHERWOOD, OR NOV. 21
BOISE, ID NOV. 21-22

SILHOUETTE

SHERWOOD, OR NOV. 7
EATONVILLE, WA NOV. 8
PUYALLUP, WA NOV. 8
SNOHOMISH, WA NOV. 14

For more information, contact Shelly Kramer at (703) 267-1459 or mkramer@nrahq.org. For a complete listing, see shootingsportsusa.com.

Hawaii Rifle Ass'n

Harvey Gerwig, President
(808) 306-7194
hghawaii@gmail.com

Idaho State Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Neill Goodfellow, President
(208) 452-0293
president@idahosrpa.org

Minnesota Rifle and Revolver Ass'n Inc.

George Minerich, President
(320) 968-6898
mrrapresident@gmail.com

Montana Rifle and Pistol Ass'n

Jamey Williams, President
(406) 868-4181
jameydan@gmail.com

North Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Eric Pueppke, Executive Officer
(701) 967-8450
Cpueppke@polarcomm.com

Oregon State Shooting Ass'n

Nelson Shew, President
(541) 409-3358
bnshew@centurylink.net

Washington State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n Inc.

Duane Hatch, Vice President
253-853-7533
vicepresident@wsrpa.org

Wyoming State Shooting Ass'n Inc.

Mark Spungin, President
307-335-9323
mspungin@ymail.com

South Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n

Tom Raines, President
605-428-5488
tom@sdsdshootingsports.org

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

NOV. 2-6—HONOLULU, HI

(Patrol Rifle)

Contact **Mary Shine** at
mshine@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1628.

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

NOV. 7—RICHLAND, WA

(Approved)

NOV. 21—ARLINGTON, WA

(Approved)

Contact **Tiffany King** at
tking@nrahq.org or (703) 267-1621.



gunshows

NOV. 6-8 Spokane County Fair & Expo, Lewis Clark Trader (208) 746-5555	SPOKANE, WA	NOV. 20-22 Cam-Plex, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005	GILLETTE, WY
NOV. 7-8 Eagle River Lions Clubhouse, Eagle River Lions Club (907) 694-1780	EAGLE RIVER, AK	NOV. 21-22 Nez Perce County Fairgrounds, Lewis Clark Trader (208) 746-5555	LEWISTON, ID
NOV. 7-8 Twin Falls County Fairground, Ray & Don's Gun Shows (208) 404-3276	FILER, ID	NOV. 21-22 Portland Metro Expo Center, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564	PORTLAND, OR
NOV. 7-8 Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564	REDMOND, OR	NOV. 21-22 Ferndale Events Center, Big Top Promotions (206) 753-7956	FERNDAL, WA
NOV. 7-8 Oregon State Fairgrounds, Collectors West (800) 659-3440	SALEM, OR	NOV. 21-22 Western Washington Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410	PUYALLUP, WA
NOV. 7-8 SouthWest Washington Fairgrounds, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564	CENTRALIA, WA	NOV. 21-22 Armed Forces Center, Faribault Rifle & Pistol Club (507) 334-2163	FARIBAULT, MN
NOV. 7-8 Red Curtain Foundation, Big Top Promotions (206) 753-7956	MARYSVILLE, WA	NOV. 22 Jackson Armory, Oregon Arms Collectors, oregonarmscollectors.com	PORTLAND, OR
NOV. 7-8 Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410	MONROE, WA	NOV. 27-28 National Guard Armory Building, AC Expos (218) 290-0274	MOORHEAD, MN
NOV. 13-15 Garden Inn, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005	MISSOULA, MT	NOV. 27-29 Billings MetraPark, Sports Connection (406) 633-9333	BILLINGS, MT
NOV. 14 Clark County Square Dance Center, Arms Collectors of Southwest Washington (360) 263-7511	VANCOUVER, WA	NOV. 27-29 Sweetwater County Events Complex, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 241-4005	ROCK SPRINGS, WY
NOV. 14-15 Shoshone-Bannock Hotel, Lewis Clark Trader (208) 746-5555	POCATELLO, ID	NOV. 28-29 Lumen Christi High School, Mat-Su Veterans Foundation (907) 441-4770	ANCHORAGE, AK
NOV. 14-15 Washington County Fair Complex, Collectors West (800) 659-3440	HILLSBORO, OR	NOV. 28-29 Armory, Crocodile Productions (763) 754-7140	BROOKLYN PARK, MN
NOV. 14-15 Thurston County Fairgrounds, Big Top Promotions (206) 753-7956	LACEY, WA	NOV. 28-29 Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Falcon Gun Shows (360) 202-7336	BREMERTON, WA
NOV. 14-15 Central Washington State Fairgrounds, Sports Connection (406) 633-9333	YAKIMA, WA	NOV. 28-29 Shilo Inn, Sports Connection (406) 633-9333	RICHLAND, WA
		NOV. 28-29 Yakima Convention Center, Big Top Promotions (206) 753-7956	YAKIMA, WA

Dates and locations subject to change—contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership sold through NRA recruiters. *Some shows may offer free admission for new membership and renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (703) 267-3784.

programs & services

Amateur Radio Station to Mark NRA's 144th Birthday

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, Ariz., will operate a special event Nov. 17, 2015, to help celebrate the NRA's 144th birthday.

The amateur radio station will broadcast from the Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus north of Prescott.

The special event's call sign will be K7NRA, an FCC-licensed radio station. Operations will be conducted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time) and will be available on the following amateur frequencies: 7.250, 14.050, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz.

An NRA/Gunsite certificate (acknowledgement of communications) will be forwarded to those stations making contact during the event.

All amateur stations, especially any operated by NRA members or Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate.

More information is available online at YARC's website, w7yrc.org/nrabirthday.



Photo courtesy of YARC

Amateur radio operator Mike Campbell participates in a previous year's Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) NRA birthday event as Buz Mills, from the Gunsite Academy, observes. YARC will continue the tradition this year, with a special event Nov. 17 to commemorate the NRA's 144th birthday.

Drake White is



Photo Courtesy Vector Management

Drake White is a uniquely talented singer/songwriter, with a rock-and-country blend of sound that becomes infectious in his live shows. He has honed his performance chops, having shared the stage with the likes of Willie Nelson, Eric Church, Brantley Gilbert, Toby Keith, Kid Rock and more.

The Alabama-born star's new single, "It Feels Good," is available now.

NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi recently caught up with Drake to talk about all things outdoors.

VS: How would you spend a week off in Mother Nature?


DW: "I would grab my dad, Uncle Ron and brother-in-law and go to Colorado on an elk hunt. That part of the country speaks to me. I'm also very partial to chasing Alabama whitetail with a bow."

VS: Do you have a favorite personal firearm?

DW: "I have a Thompson .308 that I absolutely love. It is very flat and will take a beating and still stay true. I love that gun."

VS: Please share your favorite outdoor memory.

DW: "I stayed in a tree stand for 26 hours and harvested a patient buck from 18 yards. It was a 3½-year-old 7-point. ... Not a world record, but it taught me to hang in there. My dad and I slept in our camper that night, and he told me he was proud of me. It's days like these that fuel my passion for nature."

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military, and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information visit nracountry.com, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram and Pinterest. 

Again, unlike shotguns of old, which required fitting by an expert and labor-intensive, permanent changes to the stock, the Benelli system is relatively simple to customize by the end user simply by referring to a fitting table in the owner's manual.

The solid carbon-fiber rib is another potentially customizable component, requiring only the loosening of a single screw for removal.

BUT IS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?

Prior to going afield with the 828U in South Dakota, our party of writers had the opportunity to try it on machine-thrown clays launched off a bluff at the ranch, which overlooks the scenic Missouri River Valley. My first impressions of the gun, shooting at quick, going-away presentations, was one of "seamlessness" as it came from the high-ready position to my face. It also exhibited generally neutral handling. In other words, the gun not only didn't get in the way of my shooting—which is, admittedly, not of particularly high order—it carried through the entire process without being in any way disruptive. Once my eye adjusted to the height of its rib and the glow of its fiber-optic bead, I began to routinely connect with clays that were 30 or more yards out and receding rapidly from sight—that's with a gun straight off the rack that had not yet been fit to my particular physique.

In the field, my first shot on a live bird brought a similar, satisfying experience. Realize, too, that this was legitimate wild-bird hunting among wide-open crop fields and across rolling terrain that was as natural as pheasant habitat gets. And the birds we encountered were not only tough and of good size, but wary, running and flushing sometimes hundreds of yards ahead of the dogs. Combine those conditions with several inches of snow on the ground and a temperature that failed to rise above the single digits, and the hunt proved to be

continued on p. 94



The detachable trigger module has a cocking plate that is pressed rearward by a projection when the top lever is moved to open the action. It then recocks the strikers and resets the automatic safety unless a spring steel clip (below, L.) is removed. A tool (below, R.) is included to detach the module from the gun.

The Freedom Knife



FREEDOM: AMERICA GREATEST VIRTUE

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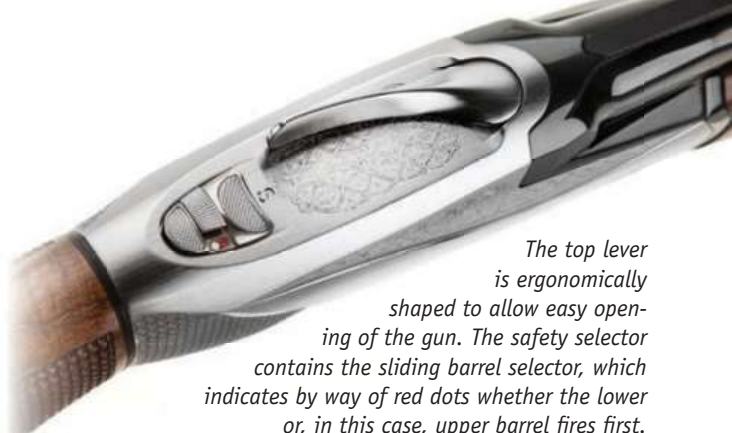
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the ideal opportunity to test the mettle of a gun that, at that point, still posed far more questions than it answered. Connecting with birds under such conditions can be a challenge, and it requires a gun that points naturally, swings fast and predictably and is capable of shooting tight patterns. The ammunition, too, obviously, plays an important part, and ours was, somewhat appropriately, an Italian-made Fiocchi GPX offering consisting of 2¾" shells carrying 1¾ ozs. of No. 4 nickel-plated lead shot at 1485 f.p.s.—not a particularly mild load for a 12 gauge weighing only 6 lbs., 9 ozs.

So, when the first rooster got up quite behind me, I simply turned and swung the gun in its direction, keeping my eye on its beak and firing as soon as I could. By the time the shot connected, he was likely 50 or more yards out, but was hit solidly by the center of the swarm, which sent him unceremoniously into the stubble. "Nice shot!" came a shout of approval from a fellow hunter, at which point I realized that the 828U had just done exactly what it was made to do: serve as a seamless extension of a hunter's body in order to bring game to bag in challenging situations. The surprising part, though, was how nonintrusively it had done so.

Back at the office, during the course of several weeks' shooting in different settings and throughout several hundred shells worth of varied ammunition—whether plastic- or



The top lever is ergonomically shaped to allow easy opening of the gun. The safety selector contains the sliding barrel selector, which indicates by way of red dots whether the lower or, in this case, upper barrel fires first.

paper-hulled, having high or low brass heads and in various payload weights and velocities—an informal test group encountered no failures with our nickel-finish, 28"-barreled test sample. True to Vignaroli's characterizations, the 828U proved to be "a very dependable gun" and ejection of spent hulls was in fact "very energetic." Everyone who shot the gun had positive things to say about its neutral balance, ease of pointing and light weight. *American Rifleman* Assistant Editor Christopher Olsen, a dedicated hunter and clays shooter, described it as "fast-handling" and its balance as "perfect." His sentiments were reinforced by his sister, Samantha, another NRA employee and a collegiate-level trap shooter. She praised the gun's appearance, calling it "nice and light" and adding that it balanced and came to the face well. She appreciated the butt pad for not hanging up on clothing, liked the matte finish of the carbon-fiber rib and pointed out that the removable breech block would make

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

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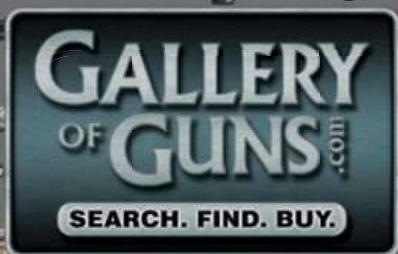


BREAKING WITH OR UPHOLDING TRADITION?

While some will pan the 828U because it doesn't fit their notion of what an over-under should be, others—particularly fans of Benelli's unique style of engineering—along with those apt to being open-minded about unexpected new offerings, may find the 828U difficult to resist. It is no stretch to suggest that the new gun offers appealing aesthetics, innovative engineering, precise manufacturing, intuitive handling and satisfying shootability. The 828U's price, too, is not out of line considering the quality of the gun's construction and the adaptability that it allows shooters of differing physiques. And if Benelli's track record is any indication, there are likely to be extensions to the new over-under line—a scaled 20 gauge would be a neat trick indeed—in the years ahead.

That the 828U breaks with the tradition of previous over-under shotguns and with all other guns that have come from its family before it is without question. And that it does so confidently and beautifully is difficult to deny. But it's also true that the 828U *upholds* at least one tradition—that of being a uniquely innovative and distinctive firearm bearing the now-famous marque of a motorcycle-turned-gunmaker named Benelli. 

cleaning easier. Her biggest complaint involved the force required to operate the opening lever: Because she had to press on its tip to gain an advantage in leverage, she found that the barrel selector on the safety button could be inadvertently moved to select the bottom barrel. Zent, reflecting on those early discussions about the 828U in Italy, said of the gun that he was finally able to hold and shoot, "I think what we see now is very close to what was on the drawing board then. To whatever extent we guessed where they were headed merely validated the instincts of a company that manages to stay one step ahead of the market." Overall, no major complaints were registered regarding the 828U—a testimony to the gun's overall design.



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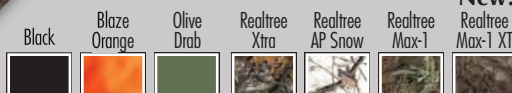
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IHC GARANDS

continued from p. 60

International Harvester-Made Receivers

Although Springfield and H&R supplied International Harvester with a number of receivers, the vast majority of the company's M1 receivers were made by IHC. All of those were of the "Postage Stamp" variety. The receiver drawing number marked on the right side of the receiver leg was initially "IHC D6528291," which was later changed to "D6528291" (no "IHC" prefix).

The majority of barrels used by International Harvester were made by Line Material ("LMR" marked), although some Springfield barrels were used, mainly very early and, again, near the end of the company's M1 rifle production program.

The major components such as the bolt, operating rod, trigger housing, hammer, gas cylinder lock screw and rear sight windage and elevation knobs were generally marked "IHC" along with the appropriate drawing number and/or subcontractor initials. Although unmarked, IHC M1 front sights were typically characterized by the noticeably wider space between the two flared protective "ears," approximately 0.875" across, wider than any other manufacturer.

As with many of the other components, the manufacture of stocks by International Harvester did not proceed as smoothly as originally envisioned. Initial plans were for IHC to make the stocks and fore-ends rather than using subcontractors—as was done for a number of other components. As events transpired, though, most of IHC's stocks were manufactured by subcontractors, chiefly the S.E. Overton Co. A hallmark of IHC M1 stocks is the presence of numbers stamped in the "barrel channel." Although three-digit numbers have been reported, the overwhelming majority are four digits, sometimes with a letter prefix or suffix. These numbers are believed to represent a variation of the Julian dating system. International Harvester was the only manufacturer



to utilize stocks stamped with such numbers. The profile of the stock behind the receiver heel on the IHC Garand was noticeably narrower than found on the contemporary H&R M1 stocks. Early production IHC stocks were stamped with an Ordnance escutcheon emblem ("crossed cannons") on the right side of the stock and a small—and often indistinct—"P" proof firing mark stamped on the bottom of the pistol grip. This was the only known case of a final inspection stamp on a post-war M1 rifle being applied to the right side of the stock. Slightly later examples typically had the more commonly seen "circled P" proofmark (sans serif) applied to the face of the grip but still had the "crossed cannons" escutcheon stamped on either the left or right side. Circa October 1953, in the approximate 4.45 million serial number range, the "crossed cannons" stamp was replaced by a 1/2" Defense Acceptance Stamp on the left side of the stock.

International Harvester eventually accepted additional M1 production contracts totaling 418,443 rifles. Despite numerous setbacks and glitches experienced throughout the production program, the company worked diligently to overcome every obstacle put in its path, self-inflicted and otherwise. Just when it appeared that the company was going to successfully complete its M1 rifle production commitments, another complication arose. In September 1955, IHC's parent company negotiated a sale of the Evansville facility to the Whirlpool Corp. To add insult to injury,

continued on p. 98

The 1/2"-tall Defense Acceptance Stamp (top) replaced the "crossed cannons" in October 1953. Overton was the chief supplier of IHC stocks. It also, uncharacteristically, stamped the barrel channels with a three- or four-digit number (below).



If You Own a Taurus Pistol A Settlement Has Been Proposed in a Class Action Lawsuit that Alleges Safety Defects

**The Settlement Provides an Enhanced Warranty,
Safety Training, and a Cash Payment for Returned Pistols**

The United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida authorized this notice.

Para una notificación en Español, visitar www.TaurusCarterSettlement.com

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

There is a proposed class action settlement about alleged safety defects in certain Taurus-branded pistols. This lawsuit alleges that Class Pistols (defined below) may unintentionally fire with the safety in the "on" or "safe" position, and may unintentionally fire when dropped or bumped. The Taurus Companies¹ ("Taurus") stand by the Class Pistols and deny all allegations of wrongdoing and liability.

WHO'S INCLUDED?

You may be a Settlement Class Member and have rights under this settlement if you are a resident or entity of the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, or Guam and own one or more of the following Taurus-branded firearms on July 30, 2015: PT-111 Millennium; PT-132 Millennium; PT-138 Millennium; PT-140 Millennium; PT-145 Millennium; PT-745 Millennium; PT-609; PT-640; and PT-24/7 (the "Class Pistols").² The settlement doesn't include Taurus G2 model pistols.

WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

Settlement Class Members may return their Class Pistol to Taurus (with shipping paid by Taurus) and receive up to \$200 per pistol, depending on the total number returned, not to exceed \$30 million. The exact payment amount will be determined after the return deadline has passed and the exact number of returned Class Pistols is known. If you return your Class Pistol for a payment, it will not be returned to you even if the payment is less than you want.

Also, Taurus will provide a free, transferrable lifetime enhanced warranty that will allow owners to submit warranty claims at any time. Taurus will pay shipping and inspection costs, and will repair or replace the pistol as necessary. Taurus will also provide safety training to all Settlement Class Members. Taurus will pay for notice and administration, a class representative award of up to \$15,000, and Class Counsels' attorneys' fees and costs up to \$9 million, payable over 4 years.

HOW DO YOU ASK FOR A PAYMENT?

You must submit a claim form and return your Class Pistol to receive a payment. Shipping is prepaid by Taurus. You can only submit a claim form *after* the settlement is finally approved and any appeals are concluded. This date is not yet known. You may register now through the website to get information about when you can submit a claim form. Visit the website to determine when you can submit a claim. If the Court approves the settlement and there are no appeals, the claims period will run from approximately February 24, 2016 until June 23, 2016.

WHAT ARE YOUR OTHER OPTIONS?

If you don't want to be bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **December 14, 2015**, or you won't be able to sue, or continue to sue, Taurus about the legal claims in this case. If you exclude yourself, you can't get money from this settlement. You may object to this settlement by sending an objection by **December 14, 2015** and you may have to give a deposition. Objections and opt-outs will be public record, even if they contain the identity of Settlement Class Members. Detailed information is on the website. If you do nothing, you will still receive the lifetime enhanced warranty and safety training but will not receive a payment, and you will still be bound by the settlement.

Before money is paid, the Court will hold a Final Approval hearing on **January 20, 2016**, to consider whether to approve the settlement. You may attend the hearing, but you don't have to. The Court will also consider the request for attorneys' fees and costs and an incentive award. The motion for attorneys' fees, costs and awards will be on the website.

This is only a Summary. For detailed information, call toll-free 1-(844) 528-0180, or visit www.TaurusCarterSettlement.com, or write to Carter v. Forjas Taurus, c/o Heffler Claims Group, P.O. Box 230, Philadelphia, PA 19107-0230.

¹The "Taurus Companies" means Forjas Taurus, S.A., Taurus Holdings, Inc. and Taurus International Manufacturing, Inc. The Taurus Companies are the Defendants in the class action lawsuit.

²The "PRO" series of each model is included.

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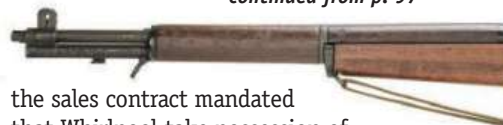
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IHC GARANDS

continued from p. 97



the sales contract mandated that Whirlpool take possession of the plant in January 1956. Since IHC had completed just over 300,000 rifles to date, it would have been impossible to finish the remaining 100,000 or so rifles called for in the contract in just two months' time. This resulted in IHC having to negotiate an early "buyout" of the final contract. The following represents the total of rifles production from fiscal years 1953-1956:

FISCAL YEAR	QUANTITY DELIVERED
1953	6,804
1954	82,897
1955	175,736
1956	72,186
TOTAL	337,623

International Harvester's M1 production program was obviously a source of consternation and almost continual headaches for the company. In hindsight, senior management (and likely stockholders as well) probably questioned the wisdom of getting involved in making military rifles. It was undoubtedly one of those, "It seemed like a good idea at the time" situations. Even though the company had to negotiate an early termination of its contract, it nonetheless persevered and eventually made more than 337,000 M1 rifles by the time production ceased in December 1955. The IHC people may not have been very proficient at making Garands but they can't be accused of being quitters.


Despite the numerous problems experienced by the company, an International Harvester M1 Garand is every bit as serviceable as those made by any other manufacturer. The International Harvester M1 has become one of the more popular examples of the genre among many collectors today due to the number of receiver variations and their relative scarcity as compared to Springfield Armory-made Garands of the same era.

Prior to the late 1970s, IHC M1s were rather hard to find on the domestic civilian market as compared to those made by other manufacturers. In the late 1950s and into the 1960s, many late-production Garands—especially Springfields and International



Harvesters—were shipped to various countries under military foreign-aid programs. This accounts for the prior relative scarcity of the IHC rifles as well as Springfields in the very high number serial number range of 5.9 to 6.0 million. While a few H&R Garands were also shipped to some allied nations, for some reason during this period, the bulk of these rifles seemed to be from International Harvester. Once the rifles were supplied to foreign governments, they could not be “re-imported” back into the United States for sale on the civilian market. Circa 1977-1978, a clause in the regulations permitted some of these former military rifles to be brought back to the United States, but sales were restricted to full-time law enforcement officers. Quite a few rifles changed hands in this manner and, in the span of a couple of years, IHC M1s went from being quite scarce to being not particularly uncommon. The regulations were eventually tightened up to prohibit such sales, and the spigot was soon closed on the re-importation of IHC Garands. Not too many years later, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship and its successor, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), acquired significant numbers of Garands—including some IHCs—from overseas, and they were openly sold on to qualified buyers. As of this writing, the CMP (thecmp.org) periodically has IHC Garands available for sale.

Perhaps surprisingly, in light of the extensive production problems experienced with the M1 rifles, it has been reported that the Ordnance Dept. later approached International Harvester about the possibility of manufacturing M14 rifles under government contract. Perhaps not surprisingly, that did not come to pass.

In hindsight, International Harvester likely wished it had stuck with making tractors instead of rifles. Regardless, an IHC M1 rifle is a sought-after collectible today and is a very interesting, albeit often confusing, part of the story of John Garand's rifle. 

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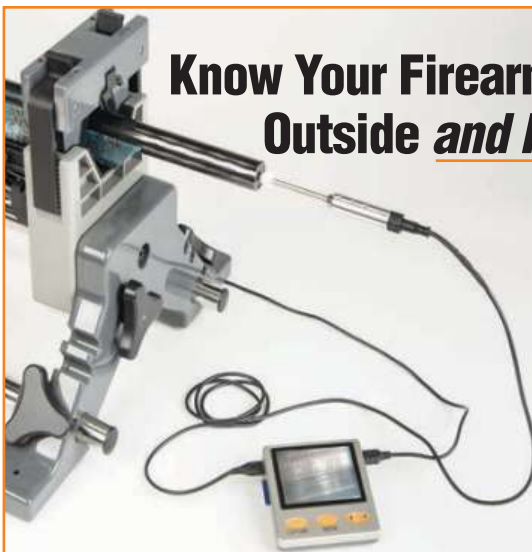


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At first glance, it would be easy to misconstrue this well-used first-generation Colt Single Action Army (SAA) as just another bugged-up sixgun that some early 20th century “gun nut” (as they often called themselves) experimented on. After all, during those post-World War I years, the SAA was basically looked upon as a relic from the Wild West that had become trampled in the stampede of modern double-action revolvers and semi-automatic pistols.

Nonetheless, certain shooters still appreciated the old Model P's rugged action and ergonomically shaped grip. It was just such an individual who altered this 7½"-barreled version made in 1917 and chambered in .44 Russian/.44 Spl. The owner was clearly an innovative experimenter, for he had a gunsmith mill out the SAA's grooved topstrap, and

in its place affix a long-base Smith & Wesson adjustable rear sight. The shooter also replaced the front sight with a sleeved, thick blade inlaid with three silver bands for various elevations when used with the rear sight's white-outlined square notch. The Colt's original hammer was replaced with an offset, lowered-spur “Cockeyed Hammer” from the no-longer-existing King Gun Sight Co. of San Francisco, Calif. Likewise, the trigger was replaced with a wide, hand-checked version. And being well ahead of its time, this SAA features a professionally altered “short stroke” hammer throw, a feature that is only now showing up on many Cowboy Action Shooting single-action replicas.

Normally, a 60-percent gun such as this, as interesting as it may be, but with a faulty action that doesn't stay on half-cock, would bring \$2,500

to \$3,500, the two-piece carved ivory stocks notwithstanding. But the crudely engraved name on the right side of the frame and scratched “EMK” initials inside each stock elevate this gun to a higher status, for this is the late Elmer Keith's “King short action job” Single Action Army, as depicted on page 103 of his book *Sixguns*, and which helped pave the way to the .44 Mag. Formerly on display as part of the Keith museum at Cabela's in Boise, Idaho, the family had Keith's guns auctioned off on March 15, 2015, by James D. Julia Auctioneers of Fairfield, Maine (jamesdjulia.com). This gun, fully documented by Keith's writings and his son Ted, was estimated to sell for \$3,000 to \$5,000, but ended up fetching \$12,000. Such is the monetary importance of a gun with provenance.

—RICK HACKER, FIELD EDITOR

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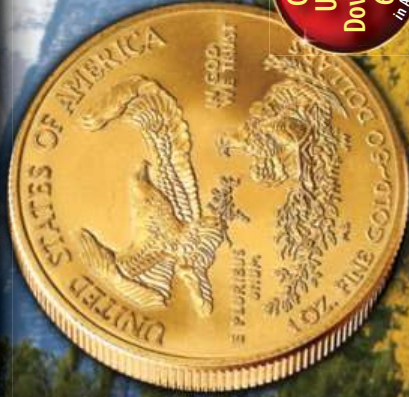
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Kimber Special Edition 1911s also include the Sapphire Ultra II with a compact frame and 3-inch barrel, and the Sapphire Pro II with a full size frame and 4-inch barrel.



Kimber Tactical Wedge 3-dot green tritium night sights, ambidextrous thumb safety and slim grips are standard features in the Sapphire and Onyx gem models.



PVD finish on slide and small parts and KimPro finish on the frame offer a unique and durable firearm. Intricate engraving accents the polished slide.



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